

Region 14 Points:

- On October 16th the Board of Education defied public opinion and voted to dismantle our community schools.
- The Board of Education acted without a plan in place. No long term fact gathering or parental input guided this decision.
- Over 400 K through 5 students will be bused out of their hometown every day!
- Reconfiguration means larger class sizes in both schools.
- The administration has not provided a firm estimate of the additional costs incurred by the reconfiguration plan.
- Adding an additional “layer” of buses will increase transportation costs.
- Bethlehem Elementary student body will increase by 30%! Plus, additional renovations will now need to be implemented to accommodate the larger student body.
- Mitchell Elementary student body is projected to stay the same! Reconfiguration does not address the overcrowding problem.
- Centralized bus stops may replace stops closer to home for our youngest students; where will your new bus stop be? This information may not be available until April 2007!
- Property values are higher in towns with local elementary schools.
- Reconfiguration separates parents from their young children and separates siblings from one another.
- Long commutes make it difficult for our kids to participate in after school activities. This will also ultimately effect the revenues of the organizations who sponsor these programs.
- Removing schools from the community cuts down on parental involvement in schools.
- 99% of towns in Connecticut have their own elementary schools. Why? It's practical!
- Reconfiguration distracts from the real problem; we need to renovate and expand Mitchell School.