

Postponement More Costly

To the Editor:

It was revealed at the March 19 BOE meeting that the proposed \$26 million budget to accommodate the reconfigured facilities in Region 14 originally slated to go to vote this year has been postponed until next year.

The public was previously told that the reason the BOE couldn't bring a revised version of last year's building budget back to referendum was because of an increase in building costs (\$6 million), making it prohibitively expensive.

I'm curious how the \$26 million building budget now postponed by one year fits into that same rationale.

In addition, now the governor has proposed cutting state reimbursements for school construction projects by five to 15 percent.

One can't blame the governor, with the disproportionate amounts of money devoted to these school construction projects and the state borrowing \$700 million a year to fund them.

Something obviously needed to be done to force Connecticut school boards to make more responsible decisions when contemplating how to spend other people's money.

But if the governor's budget proposal passes, it will certainly negatively impact our ability to fund the proposed \$26 million project, ultimately placing a higher burden on taxpayers.

It seems obvious that the dogged commitment to the uncertain reconfiguration plan has thrown the entire timeline for renovation out of whack, necessitating a re-evaluation and delay that will ultimately cost taxpayers more money in the long run.

It seems a shame the board didn't just return to taxpayers with a more responsible building budget in light of last June's failure. Instead, they decided to resort to ultimatums and the complex reorganization of the entire school district.

Now, as a result, they are forced to roll out their renovation budget yet another year later with higher building costs ultimately incurred and possibly less in state reimbursements to boot.

Stephen Cunningham

Woodbury