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Letters to the editor
Republican-American
P.O. Box 2090
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Dear Editor:

Democracy—it is certainly in the air. Or is it? With this week's elections, it appears that President Bush has received the message and is making some changes in his cabinet. We'll see how his changes play out. More close to home, Southbury's First Selectman Mark Cooper was giving "Elementary lessons in democracy" as shown in the November 9th edition of *Republican-American*. I wonder whether any of the Region 14 (Woodbury and Bethlehem) Board of Education members could give a lesson in democracy to Region 14 students right now?

What happened at the October 16th Region 14 Board of Education meeting absolutely was not a demonstration of what should occur in a democratic society. At that meeting, the Board of Education proposed to reconfigure the school system. Essentially, all Woodbury and Bethlehem students would go to Bethlehem Primary School for kindergarten through grade 2 and all grade 3 – 5 students would go to Mitchell Intermediate. Many community members stood up, commented on, and asked excellent questions about what this reconfiguration would mean for Region 14 students and residents. Anyone who attended that meeting or who watched it on television could clearly see that overwhelmingly, the public was asking BOE members not to make a decision about the reconfiguration plan that night. The BOE ignored public opinion. With so many questions left unanswered, they made the decision that night to go ahead with the reconfiguration plan.

The next Region 14 BOE meeting will be on November 13. Perhaps this time board members will listen to the people who elected them and then make decisions accordingly. At this point, I am not exactly sure how I feel about the reconfiguration plan. I only hope that whatever happens that it will truly be best for the majority of students in Region 14.

Sincerely,

Valerie Rupe DiLorenzo
Region 14 resident