

Letters

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order to get one grade, fifth, back into the Mitchell School.

This is a Band-Aid on the main problem, which is the unavoidable necessity of renovating Mitchell School. I'm not an expert, but I would think that instead of adding the extra costs of busing all these children, that money could be used for the expansion of Mitchell School.

Then there is the issue of putting so many young children on buses to go to school in another town. Longer bus rides cannot be beneficial to these children, either academically, emotionally or physically.

I keep hearing about how it will improve the curriculum by splitting up the elementary schools. It's like listening to all the campaign ads we were recently subjected to. The school board is sure it will improve the curriculum, but they never really

pinpoint how, except to say now teachers can talk. Have our teachers been mute up until now?

For those of us that don't have small children, this decision will affect us, too. More buses, more parents driving their kids from one town to another. And the end result will still be the same. Our tax dollars will still be needed to update Mitchell.

The next school board meeting is slated (unless the board decides to change it) for Tuesday, December 5, 7:30 p.m. at Nonnewaug High School.

Lynn Frederick
Woodbury

What Is the Rush?

To the Editor:

I've been doing research on and discussing the Region 14 reconfiguration with anyone willing to talk to me. I feel the Region 14 BOE is forging ahead with this

at all costs.

After personally speaking with our new Superintendent of Schools and the only BOE member out of eight who was kind enough to acknowledge my e-mails, I must admit I am still at a loss as to what the rush to push this plan through for next September really is.

The BOE is forging ahead with a plan that is being laid out as they go along, as if we have absolutely no other choices available to us. They have listened to public outcry to rethink the haste in which this monumental move of two schools is being carried out, and completely ignored

it.

They are planning another referendum, albeit smaller budget, (perhaps \$30 million according to Dr. Cronin's assessment in the Voices article November 15) that has a good chance of failing due to being attached to a highly questioned, unplanned reconfiguration.

Reconfiguration or not, Mitchell needs renovations. Why are we displacing two schools worth of elementary students with a plan-as-you-go reconfiguration, at the risk of losing another referendum for what we really need?

The BOE and Dr. Cronin would gain a great deal of respect and

resources to pass a referendum if they would leverage the interest gained with this decision and take pause to rethink the haste in which it is being carried out and the risk that such haste puts our elementary students at.

There is a lot to lose and even more to gain by doing the right thing and letting democracy into this situation.

Please visit www.saveregion14elementary.com for more information and attend the next BOE meeting at 7:30 p.m. December 5 at Nonnewaug auditorium.

Pamela A. Gengenbach
Woodbury

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