

*Lisa A. Rose
Chairman, Chaplin Board of Education
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Attention Education Committee;

February 21, 2009

District Eleven, comprised of the towns of Chaplin, Hampton and Scotland is currently in the middle of a Dissolution Study which has been mandated by the State of Connecticut Department of Education. The Study Committee, formed in May 2008, has specific guidelines to follow which include appointment of Committee Members from town boards and agencies as well as a timeline of one year to complete the process and present a report of findings to the State Board of Education. Once the report is approved by the State, the members of the three towns would go to referendum. Current State Statutes pose that two of the three towns will decide the vote.

It has been brought to my attention that State Statute HB-6493 has been put on the fast track to be modified at a public hearing on February 23 and would take effect in July 2009. It is not a coincidence that an effort to manipulate the language in the statute is presented at the same time as District Eleven prepares to vote on an extremely important issue that affects our children.

I strongly oppose this change for two reasons. 1) Changing the language of a statute to a study already in progress is like changing the rules of a game at half time; is it really fair to change something that has already been established? 2) If this statute is modified the voice of the minority will be lost; isn't this the foundation of what built this country? The small town will no longer have a voice, but it will be muted by the majority of the larger entities. It is important for each town to have a voice; not the majority of the masses.

Lisa Rose
Chaplin Board of Education Chair