

Bill 457 and Bill 738

To whom it may concern,

As a resident of New Canaan, I am AGAINST the proposals to regionalize our schools for several reasons.

1. My family and I chose New Canaan for the schools and the community. We did not choose Wilton, Norwalk, Darien, or Stamford, or any other town in our area.
2. We also chose New Canaan for the proximity between our house and the schools. As working parents, we chose to live in a place where our children could walk to and from school, and their after school activities, doctors appointments, and the local library. Our non-driving child care person (a relative) could walk our kids to and from all the places needed, while we could work stress free.
3. I would not want children on a school bus where the bus ride was more than 15 minutes. I do not think it is productive for children to be stuck on a bus, as my kids experienced what happens when kids behave badly on school buses. One of my children did have a bus in elementary school. In the 14 minutes it took for her to get home, she routinely came off the bus in tears due to bullying by other children.
4. It completely distorts the idea of a community. Our administrators know our town, our community, our teachers and our schools. If I wanted my kids to be just a number, I would have stayed in New York City. Our administrators can change things easily when appropriate and adapt to our immediate environmental needs.
5. Putting more schools, more students and more teachers under a single source of authority just translates into overworked, overwhelmed staff who become firefighters, not the educators we need them to be. Keeping the student to faculty and supervisor ratio small is critical to the success of our future leaders.
6. Today's elementary students are tomorrow's leaders. The state of CT needs a lot of help.
7. If you want to save money, cut the pensions of union employees. Eliminate the unions and lower their benefits. I pay for my retirement, I pay for my benefits, and I have nothing like a guaranteed pension.
8. I really wish you would focus your efforts on attracting businesses to CT. We need to focus on revenue generation. Yes, we should cut expenses, but this proposed bill will only drive more people out of the state.

Sincerely,

Alexandra DeMarino
New Canaan, Ct