

Testimony from Cory Reagan, New Canaan Resident

I wanted to share my voice and strong opposition to forced regionalization of our schools in Connecticut. This regards SB 457, SB738, SB 874.

I have two children in New Canaan Public Schools, West Elementary and Saxe Middle School. A major part of our decision to move to New Canaan was the quality of education in our town. The schools are close, and give voices to the parents/families that have students there. Our Elementary School was just awarded Blue Ribbon Status, only one of two schools in the state.

My concern with regionalization are several:

1. Our schools / class sizes / teachers are extremely well run. Curriculum is strong. Parent involvement is deep. Regionalization only opens the programs up and would give the families in our town less of a voice in school matters, as well as educational decisions for my children.
2. I don't believe that a statewide decision, mandating wholesale regionalization, is best for our town / our community or overall the state. I believe we have a really good program, strong administration, strong superintendent that believes in efficiency locally.
3. Education is the most important investment we can make in our children and this is not producing the cost reductions in relation to impacts of the education of our children.
4. We (and many others) live in New Canaan specifically for the schools. I have a grave concern about the economy in Connecticut as a whole. There is a huge quantity of real estate on the market, and I believe forced regionalization will give people less incentive to move to these towns and more people to move out furthering this problem. Ultimately this decision will hurt the economy of our community, and of our state. Connecticut needs people living in communities like New Canaan, and neighboring towns, for tax dollars, and local community investment. Forced regionalization provides less incentive to move to New Canaan which hurts our real estate, and our town's economy.

I feel very strongly that this is the wrong way to go for Connecticut as one of the main reasons people move into this state is for the outstanding school systems.

Thank you,
Cory Reagan
New Canaan, CT.