

February 28, 2019

Dear Members of the Education Committee:

We are writing to you to express our concerns in general about the state of our education system and in particular about the current climate in the Wilton Public School system where our children have attended the past eleven years. Our writing will be ineloquent because we are voicing our concerns minutes before the deadline.

In the spirit of full disclosure, we are not completely informed about what each bill states. However, we are informed enough to know that we are greatly upset with the quality of education our children have received thus far in the Wilton Public Schools. You will receive many, many, many letters about how wonderful the schools are in Wilton, and how wonderful the community is, yet that could not be further from the truth.

The reality is that there are a host of troublesome issues within our school system that are just buried. These issues range from ineffective, lazy, and mean teachers who enjoy large salaries and pensions but who produce little to no work to earn it, to varying levels of bullying and extreme favoritism. Wilton Administrator's boast high district test scores, but perhaps a better way to view these test scores is through images. Visit any local library during the after school hours and it will be hard to escape seeing the number of students being tutored. There are at least six tutoring centers within Wilton to address the needs that our schools are not meeting. We ourselves have spent countless hours teaching our children, and in the last two years we have spent thousands of dollars on tutoring for our children. That is not to mention all the organizing of schedules and driving involved to make these tutoring sessions.

Of most concern is that basic reading, writing and math foundational skills are not being taught in the lower grades and yet the students are berated and humiliated in the upper grades for not possessing these abilities. We are undergoing our third math curriculum change requiring the students to adapt to another new methodology without the benefit of quality instruction and scaffolding.

There are ethical issues too in terms of teacher candidate sourcing and the lack of accountability of teachers. Wilton was home to not one but two pedophiles. These pedophiles were a part of school staff for many years. How does that happen in such a supposed stellar school system? For two years our daughter was in direct contact with this pedophile and the response to this was apathy. The superintendent, administrators, and most significantly teachers have been apathetic whenever we have tried to voice our thoughts. Teachers feel untouchable and behave very much like members of an organized crime unit.

There are many more important issues and concerns and while we are unsure if regionalization would or would not be a benefit, or step in the right direction to alleviate the problems within our district, we do know that we want to at least understand all aspects and sides of this issue. It's alarming the frenzy Good Morning Wilton and our school administrators and government representatives have created, almost to the point of bullying us to write and shut down the thought of even discussion on this subject.

Our thoughts are great on this topic and we hope to be able to voice all that is in our hearts about education. We have tried to do so very respectfully with current and past administrators, but to no avail and without a reciprocal respect. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth and Nicholas Crocitto