

*(Submission regarding S.B. 874, P.S.B. 457, AND P.S.B. 738)*

I do not agree with the proposal to join the Wilton and Norwalk schools in any form. It is wrong and will prove to have unsatisfactory results, proven unsatisfactory over time and experience in the past. I also do not agree with transporting students to and from school in any way except the family car. I have my own more-than-satisfactory personal experience in neighborhood schools in my own education in first grade to twelfth grade in the Midwest and my children's education in Fairfield County, Westport. It is best to be near one's school for every reason that can be pursued.

I taught second grade in Long Beach, California, for seven years and first grade at Fort Rucker School at Fort Rucker, Alabama, for one year, and have kept up with the educational systems and activities since teaching and have formed my opinions based on my teaching experience, raising children, and the politics of the time in my life, and I believe in what I say.

It's been proven with many efforts in the past that the best results in placement of children in K-12 grades are obtained from neighborhood schools being within neighborhoods where the children live. Transporting to areas other than the students' neighborhoods gives the children long rides, too much time away from their homes and schools to rationalize, and too much time wasted riding on the roads every morning and afternoon. The very best is walking to and from school. When children are placed in schools outside their neighborhoods, there are no reasons to justify it and many reasons against it.

Placing children outside an area where their friends live does not nurture meaningful relationships and prevents helpful friendships from occurring to nurture good feelings and friendships that happen in schools and neighborhoods. Friendships are made easily within geographic boundaries in a natural progression, tested and proven over time. Without neighborhood schools, education has been proven to fail the children, over and over.

Schools within the time-honored neighborhoods as determined in the past, is best for the children, always has been, and will be best for the children in this case, as always, and will be detrimental to the children if the school areas are changed from the time-honored ones in the past. Politics should not be a determinate in placing children in schools. It is contrary to the purpose of schools and the children attending them. The reason for schools is to teach the students, and that's all.

Please consider voting down all three of the proposed bills. Thank you.

Peggy Daily

Norwalk, Connecticut