

February 21,  
2019

# Opposition to SB 457, SB 738, and SB 874

Cristen C. McCaughey, New Canaan,  
CT

To Whom it May  
Concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Regionalization of Schools (SB 457, SB 738, and SB 874). As someone who attended the New Canaan public school system and now has three children in this public school system I know firsthand how harmful it would be to take New Canaan's schools away. Forcing the regionalization of small town schools as is intended by SB 457, SB 738, and SB 874 will not only harm our community, it is fiscally irresponsible and will diminish the quality of education our children receive.

I love my town and as a single working mother of 3 children I take pride in knowing they will have the same small town Connecticut childhood I did. My children are able to walk to our local elementary, middle and high schools. I know their teachers, our neighbors are on the PTA, and their friends moms are the school nurses. These are all things that make small towns in Connecticut special and will be lost if SB 457, SB 738 and SB 874 are passed. Since moving back to Connecticut in 2010 I have seen a steady increase in taxes with not much to show for it, except for our schools.

The cost of renovating preexisting buildings or building new ones to accommodate larger number of children will be astronomical. Why pour money into this project when we already have local school buildings in place? What is to become of the school buildings that are no longer needed? Will we need to pay more in taxes to have these "unnecessary" buildings removed? Why pay more money for a bus route that will need to include my children when they can walk to their current schools instead? By regionalizing the schools more administrators will need to be hired to accommodate these larger schools and good teachers will be lost as classroom sizes increase.

Small towns like New Canaan attract the best teachers and administrators who value the personal connections offered by small districts. As a mother of a son with learning disabilities, I value these personal connections and the level of education his teachers are able to offer him. Classroom sizes are already large at 20 students to one teacher. I have friends in New York who say their children

are one of 30 children in a classroom with one teacher and it is AWFUL. Their children are not given one on one or small group instruction and the teachers are so overwhelmed by the amount of students and work they have that the children are the ones who suffer. Why would we want to do this to our children in Connecticut? I left New York and moved to New Canaan, CT for the school system because I value quality over quantity. By eliminating local control over our schools SB 457, SB 738, and SB 874 will harm one of Connecticut's greatest assets and future, the quality of our children's education.

Thank you for your kind attention in reading my letter opposing SB 457, SB 738, and SB 874. I hope you will oppose SB 457, SB 738, SB 874 and any other effort put forth to force consolidation of Connecticut's public schools so that we can maintain what is good for our children and State.

Sincerel  
y,

Cristen C.  
MCCaughey