

February 28, 2019

Subject: Opposition to SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874

Dear Connecticut Legislators,

I am a parent of two public school students in New Canaan, and I vehemently oppose Bills SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874. What good reason would there be to “mess” with a school district that is time and again ranked in the top two public districts in the State? Furthermore, not one of these bills include a single mention of how school quality will be affected.

Four years ago, my family and I moved back to the Northeast due to my husband’s employment transfer. We have numerous friends who reside in Rye, NY, who tried to persuade us to buy a home in Westchester. At first, New York seemed like the best idea; good schools, and a very short commute for my husband, who works in lower Manhattan. We didn’t consider Connecticut for a single moment, until I read an article lauding the New Canaan school district. After further research on New Canaan’s excellent, locally governed schools, we were sold. We pay approximately \$40,000 per year in taxes, which is a lot, but worth every penny considering the quality of our children’s education.

My two sons attend East School, which was recently named the #1 public elementary school in all of Connecticut. Furthermore, the New Canaan School District was also ranked #1 by Niche. Despite preconceived notions, our little school is racially, economically, and socially diverse. Our students are engaged, and our faculty and staff committed. Why would any politician want to disrupt a system that is so clearly thriving? I am all in favor of giving more children, more opportunity, but moving power out of local hands, and disrupting a well-oiled machine is not the way to achieve this.

Our friends recently moved from Southington to Ridgefield, solely because of the problems Southington began experiencing after the district was regionalized. Should you decide to regionalize more schools, it is a guarantee that more families will choose to move elsewhere (most likely from Fairfield County to Westchester). We know four families who are planning to move out of NYC this summer to the suburbs. The mere mention of this school uncertainty is already scaring potential buyers, and forcing them to only consider New York.

My husband leaves the house for work at 4:30am, commutes 90 minutes to work, and returns home at 8:30pm (after an additional 90 minute train ride home). He does this only because of the New Canaan school system. Should you regionalize us, I will never vote for a Democrat again, and we will undoubtedly move out of CT- for the simple fact that regionalization is evidence of blind stupidity, and a desire to enrage and hurt your constituency at whatever the cost.

I hope you will oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874, and any other legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut public schools.

Sincerely,

Krystin McCauley Inman
New Canaan