

Gentlefolk:

I do appreciate you have a tough job -- especially because of the highly emotional, and hence highly subjective, disposition of those impacted by the tragic December 14 event.

I encourage you to seek to gain an objective perspective for your mission.

A week ago I addressed to the News-Times a 600-word essay dealing with aspects of the civic response (the strongly pro-gun News-Times editorial staff didn't go for it) but I'd like to offer the latter part of the essay for your consideration:

Herewith:

In other (News-Times) stories we hear much talk about abandoning Sandy Hook Elementary School as a school. Was the structure unsuited to educating elementary school children on December 13? Could the cost of repairing the damage done to the school on December 14 (and in follow-on activity) be remotely comparable to the cost of building a replacement structure somewhere else? Whyever should we throw away valuable community property?

I must further ask: Is there any rational soul who believes that the surviving pupils of the Sandy Hook school chaos are unaware of what happened at the school on December 14? Could it do those pupils any good to have their parents and teachers behave as though it never happened? Indeed, should we hide from our children the fact that, with all too regular frequency, comparably tragic events are afflicting communities all over the world -- conspicuously in the present middle east? My one answer to these three questions is "No".

My earnest recommendation is that we stop declaring to the world that our schools have no armed protection and then, that we stop insisting that our schools **mustn't have armed protection**. Compensated "concealed carry" provision for a few school staff members could do wonders for school safety at very modest cost.

Surely it's entirely appropriate to assist wounded families in dealing with their stunning losses but, for the good of the whole community, its time for the community leadership to start acting like objective grownups.

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