

What Cost Reconfiguration?

To the Editor:

On October 16, the board chose to vote yes on a facility and space needs proposal. Ironically, this proposal has pushed hope of a building project back another year. Unfortunately, pushing a proposal back a year means increased costs.

A consulting firm hired by the board said last year's proposal would cost 16 percent more this year. Can we expect another 16 percent increase for putting it off yet again? Governor Rell wants to cut state reimbursement for school construction costs by 5 to 15 percent. I guess Woodbury and Bethlehem don't need that money. Many items will need to be cut to make up for these added expenses.

When doing the high school's building proposal years ago, cafeteria space needed to be cut. We know how that worked out, and for anyone in high school, it won't be fixed before you graduate. What will we lose this time? Putting off the proposal sentences students to another year of inadequate facilities. Problems with space and facilities have been a problem in the region for years, yet they continue to Band-Aid it.

Every Band-Aid is costlier to taxpayers and denies our children the space and facilities they deserve.

Instead of working to give students proper facilities, the board chose to bus MES students in grades kindergarten through second to another school, which without them is perfectly sized, but with them needs added space.

That space won't be added for four years. BES students in grades 3 to 5 will be bused to MES, which has been in dire need of improvements for years. These improvements have yet again been placed on the backburner.

Reconfiguration is a \$100,000 Band-Aid that is going to cost us much more in the future.

Denise Kolitsas
Woodbury