

No Real Plan

To the Editor:

Flimsy justifications. No real plan. Faulty intel. Staying the course in spite of all the evidence that it's a bad idea. No, it's not the war in Iraq, it's the Region 14 reconfiguration "plan."

At the January 8 hearing with the BOE, I presented concerns about the ability of the Bethlehem Elementary School's septic system ability to handle the output of an additional 100 students. Director of Financial Services Jay Hubelbank held aloft a report that he claimed, "proves" that the system is up to the task.

His statements are at best misleading. His source is a Water System Maintenance Log, not a septic report. Even so, during 132 of the days this log covers, the system ran out of capacity for 13.64 percent. The period covered in the report includes weekends and hours when the school is closed.

The Connecticut Public Health Code states that septic capacity is determined using only the hours the facility occupied and that in a school, each student represents eight gallons a day entering the system.

By applying this methodology to Mr. Hubelbank's report, the system runs over capacity most of the time without an additional 100 students.

Contrary to Mr. Hubelbank's claims, the BOE has yet to make a request to the Torrington Area Health District for the clearance and testing required before the planned expansion can take place.

According to a Health District representative, the request can only be made by the superintendent.

The truth is that the BOE insists on staying the course, putting at risk the health of children too young to understand the consequences.

Jim Conway

Woodbury