

Advocates 'Yes' Vote

To the Editor:

As we approach the dates for the referendum vote on the reconfiguration of Region 14 schools, May 31 in Bethlehem and June 12 in Woodbury, I would hope that the voters in both towns fully understand the issues involving reconfiguration's impact on the communities.

It's come to my attention that there are people who have not closely followed the details of the reconfiguration plan. Reconfiguration will not circumvent the necessity of the renovation of Mitchell School.

Reconfiguration will add to next year's school budget an additional cost of not only renovations at Mitchell, but now at Bethlehem Elementary in order to accommodate the reconfiguration plan.

Next year's school budget will include the normal operating budget of \$27 million and another \$30 million for the renovation of both schools. That's nearly \$60 million.

It took eight BOE members 12 days to decide on this reconfiguration plan that will directly impact the families of 700 elementary school students and indirectly impact every one else in the region.

It would seem prudent to vote this plan down and really look at the best way to serve the children and spend the \$60 million budget.

Vote yes to keep our elementary school in our towns. Vote yes to keep our youngest children from being bused to another town. Vote yes to protect property values.

Vote yes to prevent more buses and cars from unnecessarily transporting our children between Woodbury and Bethlehem, creating more pollution and traffic congestion. Vote yes to save our tax dollars.

Lynn Frederick

Woodbury