

Urges 'Yes' Vote

in Woodbury

To the Editor:

In the wake of Bethlehem's referendum, Woodbury voters may feel their vote is moot.

I urge people never feel your vote is moot. The results of the Woodbury referendum, if it should concur with Bethlehem, will send a very clear message to the Region 14 Board of Education that the entire region expects them to abide by the law.

Many have gotten caught up in the details of reconfiguration, but have we completely lost sight of the fact that our elected board members are attempting to make a fundamental change to our schools without voter consent?

Whether you are for or against reconfiguration, you need to consider whether you will allow our school board to break the law?

The originators of the 1968 regionalization plan (those still living) will attest to the fact that the plan's intention was to maintain grades K-5 in each town. Woodbury and Bethlehem voted to adopt this plan via referenda and Region 14 was born.

By Connecticut state statute, fundamental changes to this plan can only be made by the formulation of a written plan on the proposed change, the plan is then submitted to the state Department of Education and finally brought to referendum.

If passed, the BOE would then have the approval needed to go forward with its prepared plan.

Why has our BOE decided to skip all the steps required by law and attempt to force this decision?

Although it must be nice to get your own way without first doing the necessary planning or involving voters, it's just unlawful. A yes vote doesn't stop the BOE from proposing reconfiguration, it will simply force them to do it correctly and with a voter approved plan in place.

Please don't allow elected officials to abuse their power. Vote yes on June 12.

Pamela A. Gengenbach

Woodbury