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To Whom It May Concern:

I've been doing research on and discussing the Region 14 reconfiguration with anyone willing to talk to me. I feel the Region 14 BOE is forging ahead with this at all costs.

After personally speaking with our new Superintendent of Schools and the only BOE member out of eight who was kind enough to acknowledge my emails, I must admit I am still at a loss as to what the rush to push this plan through for next September really is?

The BOE is forging ahead with a plan that is being laid out as they go along, as if we have absolutely no other choices available to us. They have listened to public outcry to rethink the haste in which this monumental move of two schools is being carried out, and completely ignored it.

They are planning another referendum, albeit smaller budget, (perhaps \$30 million according to Dr. Cronin's assessment in the Voices article November 15th) that has a good chance of failing due to being attached to a highly questioned, unplanned reconfiguration.

Reconfiguration or not, Mitchell needs renovations. Why are we displacing two schools worth of elementary students with a "plan as you go" reconfiguration, at the risk of losing another referendum for what we really need?

The BOE and Dr. Cronin would gain a great deal of respect and resources to pass a referendum if they would leverage the interest gained with this decision and take pause to rethink the haste in which it is being carried out and the risk that such haste puts our elementary students at. There is a lot to lose and even more to gain by doing the right thing and letting democracy into this situation.

Please visit www.saveregion14elementary.com for more information and attend the next BOE meeting December 5th 7:30PM Nonnewaug Auditorium.

Pamela A. Gengenbach