

Encourages Woodbury Voters

To the Editor:

A heartfelt thank you goes to all the Bethlehem residents who voted on May 31 as well as to all who tirelessly worked to educate the public about what a yes vote meant. As a parent, educator and voter, I must say I am thrilled with the outcome.

I learned about democracy from my Region 14 teachers back in the 1970s and 1980s. What an incredible experience to witness democracy in action on May 31. Our community has a voice and it was heard with a resounding 'yes.'

Perhaps now the superintendent and Board of Education see that those who are opposed to reconfiguration are not just "a small group of loud parents."

The number of yes votes was 613. Clearly, other people in the community exist, besides BES parents, who agree that reconfiguration is not a good idea.

One point of clarification regarding the proposed amendment to the 1968 regionalization plan: Dr. Cronin misstated the implications of this amendment at Woodbury's town meeting on May 29.

The amendment would not remove current Woodbury students from Bethlehem Elementary School and force them to attend Mitchell Elementary.

In fact, the amendment is only a reinstatement of the original regionalization plan and only states that the towns must maintain K-5 schools in each town.

There is no qualification as to which children attend those schools, so it allows for redistricting and of course allows our Woodbury friends to continue to attend BES.

I urge Woodbury voters to go to the Old Town Hall on June 12 and vote yes to make sure that the Region 14 BOE and superintendent continue to hear our collective voice that we want to keep our community elementary schools and we want democracy to prevail in our region.

Valerie DiLorenzo

Bethlehem