

Letter: Frustration, dismay over process, plan

Thursday, February 17, 2005

To the editor:

We want to thank Jody James Avtges for the letter to the editor two weeks ago regarding the whole redistricting process being a disappointment. We also were not impressed. Regardless of where our children go to school next year, we too expected more serious analysis of the questions and concerns regarding redistricting for all neighborhoods. We too felt the difficulty and frustration of having these issues brought to light during the holiday season. At the Jan. 27 School Committee meeting it was difficult to hear, let alone understand, much of what was being said and done.

We want to thank John Carpenter and Carl McFadden for voting to keep our particular neighborhood together, but we also want to voice our frustration over the lack of understanding shown by other School Committee members who misrepresented our concerns. We put a considerable amount of effort into making a reasonable request supported by the majority of our neighborhood. As Ms. Avtges stated in her letter, the School Committee did go on record to say that redistricting can be revisited at any time. We truly hope they will realize the need to revisit their decisions. Any plan that takes children who can currently walk to school on sidewalks through a small neighborhood and tells their families that they can no longer do this must be questioned. At the very least, the process of redistricting could be done in stages to alleviate some of the concerns voiced but not heard. At the very best, another look could be taken at the entire plan since it does not follow the administration's own guidelines supposedly used in developing it.

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