

2020 Candidate Questionnaire - School Regionalization - 2 short questions!

As a 2020 candidate for Middletown or Newport Town Councils or School Committee - CITIZENS EXPLORING SCHOOL UNIFICATION is asking ALL candidates to REPLY to 2 questions below. The responses will be published on our website, social media, and with all local media outlets. CANDIDATES who DO NOT RESPOND to the survey - CESU will publish that you DECLINED to participate in the survey. DEADLINE to complete is August 31, 2020, *if you have questions about this survey - send an email to info@cesu.news We will reply within 24-hours.

Email address *

vonvillasb@aol.com

First and Last Name *

Barbara A. VonVillas

What position are you running for? *

- Town Council
 School Committee

Do you support an updated study of school regionalization between Newport and Middletown? *

- Yes
 No
 Other:

Why OR Why Not? Please describe your position in detail (1,000-word limit)! *

I have been an advocate for school regionalization since 2009. The situation is the same except for aging buildings and decreasing opportunities for students, which has lessened the ability to serve ALL the students and resulted in embarrassing test scores.

The student enrollment at both Middletown High School (approx. 600) and Rogers High School (approx. 600) is half of what it was when those schools were in their prime (approx. 1200 students each) and they were successfully providing broad educational opportunities for ALL students.

Not only is the quality of education in these 2 communities at a new low, but now we are dealing with the effects of COVID – the devastation to our economy and its impact on the education of our children. This is a perfect time for change.

We need to put aside our reluctance to give up our independence and come together for the benefit of our young. The truth is: We do better together.

Both communities have programs and activities they can be proud of. How much more effective would they be if ALL the children in our communities had equal access to those programs?

What efficiencies – financial and administrative - could be gained through economies of scale?

A study is not a commitment to regionalize. It is the formal consideration of the benefits and disadvantages of regionalization that could result in a valid proposal to the voters. There is nothing to be lost by conducting a study and much that could be gained if intelligent people with good intentions agree to talk.

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