

## 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](mailto:info@cesu.news) We will reply within 24-hours.

Email address \*

dturano@middletownri.com

First and Last Name \*

Dennis Turano

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: I would be interested in a updated study but not forming a committee

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

I'm very interested in providing our children the best education possible and prepare them for the "real world" whatever they decide to do. In reference to unification I don't think its the right thing to do at this time. I have asked the Middletown School Committee for their opinion and I haven't received a response. People ask me why not at this time? I tell them, I have concerns about the RI State law around unification, Middletown is not going to need a new school in the next 15-20 years, I believe that distant learning is going to return to remote learning and it will be a permanent tool used in schools. I see that remote learning could limit the amount of time a student is in the school building, especially in high school. One thing that people are not talking about is the unification that is already happening between our island schools. The island schools share resources today in STEM, Robotics, Trades, Special education resources, and sports. I believe we need to do more of this and get the community involved. Middletown recently restarted a program called "Beyond the Bell" offering after school learning, tutoring, and consulting. I believe we need to open this program up across all the island schools and share educational resource across our boarders. Again, we need to get our children ready for the "real world" no matter what they decide to do. I'm open to updating the study but not forming a committee at this time. Thank you and please vote Dennis Turano, Middletown Town Council.

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