

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 *

tamiholden66@gmail.com

First and Last Name *

Tami Holden

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)! *

Yes, I do support an updated study of school regionalization between Newport and Middletown. I was extremely disappointed when the Middletown Town Council voted against the initial petition. In fact, I later signed to support a discussion regarding school unification.

When I think back on my many years of teaching and collaborating with professionals, there was always something to be learned from hearing new or alternative perspectives. Even if I did not wholeheartedly subscribe to another's point of view, teaching method or current educational trend, I always came away with new knowledge and insights. When we are open to discussion, we are not committing to any one position; we merely are collecting information to make the most informed decision.

Teaching also provided me with the opportunity to attend many professional development workshops and observe some exceptional schools. Healthy discussions including disagreements provided some extremely valuable information which resulted in a better understanding of each other's perspectives. I specifically remember asking an administrator of an outstanding school how they created such an innovative and dynamic program. She simply stated that they have had revolutionary leaders who think creatively, do what they believe is in the best interests of their students and dare to be pioneers.

That administrator's statement has always stuck with me. When I think about school regionalization, there is no reason not to gather information that could potentially benefit our students, families and community. There are many benefits and concerns to regionalizing schools, but regardless of the outcome, the exploration process is crucial and could yield benefits that may never have otherwise surfaced. An open mind leaves room for growth and possibility.

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