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December 15, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

My belief is Act 46 should not be applied to the Windham Elementary School. It is an isolated mountain school out of reach of many of the other towns and it functions so beautifully today, I am urging the committee to keep the WES intact with a full school board.

For the past four years I have had the privilege of hosting the Windham Elementary School at our farm at Meadows Bee Farm on a weekly basis before school and at The Field House Eco-Farm and Educational Center for ceramics classes. I have also attended numerous school gatherings. From these experiences I have come to know the children and their teachers very well. I see an extraordinary school well adapted to help children learn and succeed and the rare gift of a very special small country school. I believe we need to do whatever we can to keep this school and school board as it is and to help it to grow.

The advantage of having the WES school board stay independent is because they are able to understand what the students need and make sure that that every penny of their budget is put to best use for this school. If the school board were to become part of a bigger regional board, the remote Windham Elementary School could very easily be compromised.

Therefore I am completely behind keeping the schoolboard independent for the Windham Elementary School and I do not support Act 46. I am in support of whatever we can do to keep this jewel of a mountain school as incredible as it is today. In the realm of public schools we must provide for those schools which show an outstanding grasp of educating our young. I believe the Windham Elementary School is that and I am committed to helping it succeed.

All of the best,

Leigh Merinoff

From: Brigett Coolbeth <[bcoolbeth\\_31@hotmail.com](mailto:bcoolbeth_31@hotmail.com)>

Date: Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 8:22 PM

Subject: Feedback from WRVC Residents

To: Sally Newton <[snewton@windhamschool.org](mailto:snewton@windhamschool.org)>, [mparkerjennings@windhamschool.org](mailto:mparkerjennings@windhamschool.org)  
<[mparkerjennings@windhamschool.org](mailto:mparkerjennings@windhamschool.org)>

Good Evening to the Both of You,

I wanted to take a minute to share with you the feedback I received this evening from our residents. Everywhere I went in the facility, I was being stopped by a resident who had attended the performance this afternoon. The message was the same from everyone of them; extremely happy to have seen the kids and how much they enjoyed listening to the singing & ukulele playing.

As I was leaving for the night, I was stopped by a couple of newer residents sitting in the living room. It had been their first time seeing our kids perform; both commented on how impressed they were with them. First lady stated how well behaved the kids were and how wonderful they all sounded. The second lady added that she was sitting in the dining room eating a late lunch and if she hadn't seen the children, she would not have guessed that it had been young children playing those ukuleles.

It was very heartwarming to see & hear what positive impression our little school had left on these residents. It fills me with much pride to see others recognize how special our little school is and the positive influence you have on our children everyday. Thanks for everything you do!

Great a Great Holiday and I'm sure we'll talk soon,

Brigett

17 Lynlee Lane  
Wilton, Ct. 06897  
July 19,2017

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing on behalf of the Windham Elementary School where I have had the pleasure of watching my 3 grandchildren progress through the grades for the last 14 years. Our youngest graduated this June in an outstanding Graduation ceremony attended by a full house of adoring family, friends and half the population of Windham, Vt. The school is truly the gathering center of the town and I fear without it the town would lose the hub which makes Windham a town where folks get together to be good neighbors and contributors to the general well being of its children.

As a teacher for 18 years in the Blue Ribbon schools of Wilton Ct., in Fairfield County, I was concerned that my grandchildren in Vt. would not have the same educational & social opportunities as the students in my school. Indeed I was proven wrong. The students at Windham Elementary School exhibit extraordinary social skills and confidence when speaking, singing, and engaging with the adults at the graduation ceremony this June. The teachers are highly skilled and devoted to their profession. The staff is caring, supportive & well loved by the students. They have had opportunities to be in plays at the Weston Playhouse, to sing with National Choirs, to learn farming skills, to participate in athletic teams and to travel to major cities of Boston and New York. All this and more the students have experienced along with their most important goal of achieving the academic skills necessary to succeed as they progress to Leland and Grey or their future academic school.

I strongly argue for the maintaining of this Town Treasure, Windham Elementary School.

Very truly Yours,

Ann McDonald