

3/3/2021

Good Morning Board Members! Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns. I am a resident of Sterling, a small rural town located on the very eastern side of the state near the Rhode Island border.

I am reaching out to the State Board of Education for help in working with our local Board. The town of Sterling does not have a high school located in town. The town had a 20-year contract with another local town. The contract was up for negotiations last year. An "Ad Hoc" committee was formed, research started and then Covid hit stalling the entire process. Many parents in the community spoke requesting the board to investigate other high school options. A new "Ad Hoc" committee consisting of two board members (Holly Wood and Courtney Langlois) was formed and they presented their findings and recommendations to continue negotiations with the current high school.

One of the reasons they denied adding other school options was the expense of a minimum of 32 special needs students in our community. I don't feel the quality of education or right to choice should affect the remaining students from their right to choose a school that supports their current and future educational needs.

I am asking for your help with our Board of Education so we can work together to provide our students with the opportunity to attend a school of their choice, which lines up with their current and future goals versus just settling for a designated school, which was chosen due to the number of special needs students in our community.

Thank you for your time.