

From: Campbell, Patrick [Patrick.Campbell@vermont.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 01, 2016 11:45 AM
To: Pepper, James
Subject: Act 46/Donna Martin

Hey James,

I just sent you three emails relating to Act 46 and communication we have received on it from a Donna Martin. So far, we have responded to all of her letters or had the Agency of Education do so with more details, which are the three emails I just sent to you. We received more communication from her today, which I will copy below. I believe at this point there isn't much more to say or do, however, because your our education point person, I wanted to send it to you, in case you wanted to respond or had any suggestions. Just let me know if you'd like me to do anything with this. Thanks!

Original/Latest Correspondence:

Mr Shumlin,

I have been emailing you about ACT 46. This is a hasty piece of legislation- with impossible timelines- expected to be implemented by non-education school board volunteers- and is so poorly and hypocritically written to be not about small school closings that it begs the question, "Do they really think anyone believes that?"

Elementary schools, the lifeblood of these towns, should have been exempt from the legislation. Small schools provide valuable family and community support. Without a local elementary school- house values fall and real estate sales plummet. Low income families with local child care and transportation issues- suffer-

Our youngest students need the financial investment from the state. Our small town will raise the bulk of the money and provide the hours and hours of volunteer work.

Most people accept and support the combination of the 7-12 students. As they get older parental involvement tends to reduce and they are more independent. It also gives those students access to sports teams and a greater peer base.

Pre-K- 6 is a different story.

If anyone in your office is actually interested in this- feel free to contact me as I have already been re-routed to other offices which say "we can only help with questions on the existing legislation- if you feel a change should be made contact your representatives...."

Reading Elementary will not "go gently into that good night".

Donna M Martin

Patrick Campbell

Office of the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
(802) 828-3333

Patrick.Campbell@vermont.gov

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