

# **WALES RESIDENTS**

## ***Some Reasons Why***

### ***School Regionalization Is Not a Good Idea***

- Holland needs to regionalize because they are at capacity and will be required to build a school. By forming a region, the Wales building would take some of the student load off the Holland system. There is no need for Wales to form a region because the school is not at capacity, nor is it likely to reach capacity.
- The Commonwealth of Massachusetts recommended to the Tantasqua Regional District that if they want to form a region, it should be with all five towns, not just two, because a two-town region does not generate any real financial savings.
- Transportation cost reimbursement is less than 60%, and was actually cut to 30% in the last State budget. It was restored, but may be cut again. The State has warned Towns and Regions to expect further cuts. The lower the refunding rate, the fewer savings can be realized.
- Although the District says that no student would have a longer bus ride than the current longest routes experience, more students would have longer rides than they do now. Also, routes that work on paper, with perfect timing, will not necessarily work in real life, where traffic, weather and family schedules have to be accommodated.
- The Regional School Board will have 3 members from Holland and 2 members from Wales, so Wales's members can always be outvoted, even when they feel a decision is not in the best interest of the Town of Wales.
- Currently the local school and the municipality can work co-operatively and compromise on local budget issues. If we form a region, the new regional school will have its own budget separate from the two towns and there will be much less flexibility. Instead of town & school under one budget, both Wales & Holland will be looking for co-operation from the new region.
- The school buildings and grounds will belong to the region, not to the town, and the region will control access to the property.
- A new region will form new unions. Wales currently offers better benefits than Holland. It is likely that the new unions will expect to receive the same benefits that Wales currently offers, (Would you do the same job with fewer benefits?) so the cost of benefits will be much higher in the new region than they are for the two towns right now, since more employees will be receiving higher

benefits.

- Regions are required to have a business manager and a treasurer. These positions cannot, by law, be held by the same person. Even if they are part-time jobs, two people will have to be hired to do work that is currently being done by the Tantasqua Regional School District and the town treasurers and accountants. (Who cannot do the work for the new region.
- Forming a region is also a melding of cultures. The two municipalities and their citizens have very different styles. The citizens of Holland frequently borrow money to fund new town purchases; the citizens of Wales are more conservative in their municipal purchases. When the region asks for an override, Wales can be easily outvoted, as we frequently have been at Tantasqua.
- The response of some members of the Holland Board of Selectmen to the Wales Public Access TV program featuring Peter Frei revealed a lack of respect on their part for the town of Wales. Members of the Holland BOS used their town's time and resources to investigate the way the town of Wales runs our local cable access station.
- Where will the funding for the new programs be coming from? If it is available now, why aren't these being offered to our students now? Although the new educational plan is good, many of the programs suggested for the new regional school classes can be implemented locally in smaller ways.

**DO YOUR OWN RESEARCH !!!**

**Vote NO to Regionalization**

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