

**Date:** 11/18/2015 8:27:29

**Name:** Robert Critzer

**Affiliation:** retired

**Public Comment:** I do not agree to have everyones property taxes raised to pay for schools . It is time to let the people with kids pay for their education. Change the tax based on the number of kids you have. For example , one kid would be the base rate , two kids a higher rate, and three kids an even higher rate. We have paid for education our whole life and have never had children. there are a lot of other seniors like us that have paid more than our fair share for education.

**Date:** 11/18/2015 9:12:31

**Name:** Alexander Tobias

**Affiliation:** Red Clay parent

**Public Comment:** Red Clay homeowners are tired of the repeated tax increases and rigged elections that make it hard for actual working homeowners to vote (10 am poll openings, free pizza for parents who are likely to vote yes).

We can afford to educate all our state's students on \$10K/student/year like other localities around the country. Expenditures on technology are excessive and wasteful. Every kid can learn to use an iPad in other settings and giving iPads to take home will be an unmitigated disaster.

The most important things for promoting education are disruption-free classrooms and a longer school year. Every summer we set our kids free for more than 60 days and then wonder why they forgot so much when the first day of school rolls around. We need to increase instruction days by at least 30 days/year. Why so many in-service days? They should use the summer for training, and also snow days - they can connect remotely from home on snow days for training instead of having so many scheduled in-service days.

This may sound like a rant but my friends and family have been talking about these ideas for a long time. I would be willing to pay for a longer school year, especially since it would reduce my camp expenditures, but I am not willing to pay even more in taxes to support expansion of my school district. We work hard to live in nice neighborhoods with good schools and pay more than our share in federal and state taxes to support those less fortunate, disciplined, or skills. Enough is enough!

I would also support a statewide or county-wide school tax structure. I believe all schools should be funded for success. But that will not stop wealthy neighborhoods from giving more to their schools in the form of charitable donations, etc. Expecting 100% equality in our schools, especially equality of outcomes, is not reasonable. Students come from a huge variance of households and starting points.

**Date:** 11/18/2015 10:17:23

**Name:** Wade Adams

**Affiliation:**

**Public Comment:** Do not raise property taxes. Delaware already spends more per student than most states and it still has the one of the worst school systems in the country. If you want more money get rid of the high priced administrators and streamline the red tape.

**Date:** 11/18/2015 17:50:39

**Name:** Alexa Hurley

**Affiliation:** Retired Fourth Grade Teacher

**Public Comment:** Successfully educating children has nothing to do with a school board's authority to raise property taxes nor does it have any correlation to the amount of money the state gives a school based on some useless formula. A child's achievement is directly connected to the environment that child is born into; good, bad, or indifferent, and a classroom is a reflection of the teacher that stands in front of it; good, bad, or indifferent. Until and unless these two front and center issues are addressed nothing will change and money will continue to be wasted, but, then again, waste is exactly what happens when the powers to be spend other people's money. Thank you.

**Date:** 11/18/2015 21:51:42

**Name:** Anthony Orsetti

**Affiliation:**

**Public Comment:** I would like to know when there will be a vote on the possibility of a tax reassessment I read in the newspaper today.. 11-18-15

**Date:** 11/19/2015 0:23:46

**Name:** Concerned Delaware Citizen

**Affiliation:**

**Public Comment:** I don't understand WHY this idea is currently being entertained. The detailed plan should come before the idea is approved. The big huge questions like how will this be funded and implemented without undue burden to Delaware citizens should be fully address before moving forward. Historical test scores show that the Red Clay School District is only moderately successful in providing education to the students that are Wilmington City residents. Current Smarter Balance test score show that Red Clay city elementary schools scored among the lowest in the state. Why does Red Clay not have any regular High Schools within the city limits? Why is it OK to bus kids from the city to the suburbs but not bus kids from the suburbs to the city? Red Clay already has it's hands full how are they going handle even more schools and students? I disagree with increasing tax assessments and giving Red Clay authority to increase taxes without showing RESULTS! Metrics! Red Clay recently moved to school inclusion for special needs children and reports are that there are a lot of growing pains. Class sizes are increasing and additional demands and burdens are being placed on teachers but it's the students who are suffering. Red Clay needs to work on it's current schools and get them more competitive statewide and possibly nationwide, in particular the school in the city, before taking on additional challenges without a clearly defined plan backed by a record of increased success with the education of city students. I think this idea needs to be put on the back burner until issues with current Red Clay schools are addressed and backed by data which document any improvements.

**Date:** 11/21/2015 18:18:22

**Name:** Alan Skolnik

**Affiliation:** Red Clay

**Public Comment:** I strongly recommend that Senior's be completely exempt from any re-assessment or tax increase as a result of any proposed realignment..

Having worked the polls for the Christina Referendum at the Shue Medill School - it was extremely obvious that the majority of the people voting were seniors who did not want a tax increase.

Now, these proposals will cause Seniors in Red Clay to pay increases which the Christina Seniors did not want to assume.

All Seniors should be exempt from any tax increase or re-assessment which they cannot afford.

**Date:** 11/21/2015 18:20:02

**Name:** Alan Skolnik

**Affiliation:** Red Clay

**Public Comment:** I strongly recommend that Senior's be completely exempt from any re-assessment or tax increase as a result of any proposed realignment..

Having worked the polls for the Christina Referendum at the Shue Medill School - it was extremely obvious that the majority of the people voting were seniors who did not want a tax increase.

Now, these proposals will cause Seniors in Red Clay to pay increases which the Christina Seniors did not want to assume.

All Seniors should be exempt from any tax increase or re-assessment which they cannot afford.

**Date:** 11/22/2015 9:40:47

**Name:** B Williams

**Affiliation:** Red Clay Suburban Taxpayer, an unrepresented group on YOUR Commission

**Public Comment:**

"It is unfortunate the WEIC sees the addition of yet another high risk population into Red Clay District, as a way towards recreating a Wilmington District, while you ignore the right of the Suburban RC Community to have a Functioning District, one that is not out voted in Referendum issues due to an overwhelming large City population that simply should be its own District. RC has been failing for 25 years, but the Superintendent and Board refuses to acknowledge it. The teachers have been quitting and the school's classes resemble inter-City hang outs, with the exception of AP classes that are taught on College level.

It is a high crime to push students through a failing system, when the Vo-tech District and some Charters would offer them the stability of learning a specific set of skills in addition to academic (College Prep) skills. Some current students in three of RC schools act like POWs because they know that their automatic CP status is not preparation for their real world.

WEIC has deliberately held their meetings in the City or other Districts, without involving the Red Clay Suburban Taxpayers around Al duPont, who will be expected to pay for Your new Taxes, if passed by the Legislators. Many single homes of retirees have a \$1000/month income. We wanted meetings in our locale. No one on the commission represents Suburban RC Taxpayers. The Legislators are lined-up to stop this! Please reconsider ~a positive course of action~, as detailed below.

Avoid the Tragedy of placing an additional 2480 City students in the Red Clay ""Priority"" District. ~Red Clay is in near failure, now.

I have regularly been a substitute teacher, in all the local schools, in all grade levels over many years, recently retiring from the U of Delaware. This has given me a unique perspective to observe successful Districts, like Brandywine and NCC Vo-Tech and to compare the quality of their education with Districts that are in near failure, like Red Clay and Christina. Many schools are exceptions Conrad, Brandywine Springs, Skyline etc., but overall, no new, at risk student populations should be sent to the Red Clay School District.

Your Wilmington Improvement Commission has a Two Month timetable so tight that a plan must be completed and presented at four Public Hearings before December. Your Commission was chosen for its PC attributes and is rubber stamping an enlargement of the boundaries of Red Clay District, to include the Christina District's Court ordered portion of Wilmington's East Side into Red Clay. Your Commission appears to be unaware that there are distinct communities of East and West that are geographically separated by the Christina River. The

""greater East Side"" should be re-united within the Brandywine District. Until the creation of a Wilmington District, the West Side should continue to be part of the Red Clay district without any additions.

Brandywine District is the best candidate to absorb Christina's City students and give them a quality education. Red Clay's Superintendent has no plan for enacting ""the improvement"". The District has had a flawed vision since it was formed\*\*. Brandywine spelled out its successful formula during the recent re-districting meeting. Brandywine is ready to include the East Side students that currently attend Christina schools. Red Clay's Court ordered mission was to provide an education to Wilmington's West Side, that includes a high proportion of special needs students, both non-English Central Americans and urban poverty. Brandywine's mission was to provide an education to Wilmington's East Side and that ~should include~ absorbing the 2480 students of Christina District that are from Wilmington's East Side. Proportionally, its responsibility for City students would then be the same as Red Clay, approximately 4000 each.

Wilmington has always had its own school district, just as it has its own City tax. The effect of busing students from Wilmington to rural Yorklyn is not educational betterment. The true result is the dominance of an intercity ~the Commission calls it ""Cosmopolitan""~ culture in the Red Clay Schools. There is a diminishment of educational opportunity for all, since there is no attachment to the values of a single Community. An already over burdened Red Clay is Un-Able to provide a uniform education model. The inclusion of vastly different socio groups will automatically create a ""special needs"" component within the schools of over 50%!

30 years ago, a Federal Judge took over our Right to keep and pay for our Schools locally. We have been released from this bad deal. In the current situation, the non-landowner majority is making the referendum decisions about the flow of tax money. Why should Red Clay landowners pay for an even larger District, when RC actually needs to be split up? Wilmington needs its own District to develop Community education again, paid for with State and Federal money.

~There is no sense, just busing students around~.

Currently, all area students are considered College Prep, so unless you are an Advanced Placement, you can not get away from those that do not have the background or inclination to perform in CP courses. The result is the slowest are holding back those that are ready to excel. RC has a massive responsibility for special needs students now, with more coming if this ""already done deal"" is finalized. It is time to stop it. The East Side annexation to suburban Western Wilmington needs to be reconsidered before its December deadline.

Red Clay already has 3744 City students with 2480 more coming, potentially, from the Christina District. Red Clay is stressed past the point of providing a fair education to even its best students and possibly failing its least. Brandywine, with only 1989 City students, is currently providing an outstanding education to all and is geographically contiguous to Wilmington's

greater East Side. The East Side should be annexed to the Brandywine District for better apportionment.

An added benefit is the return of PS duPont, as a City High School, inappropriately used at this time, as a Junior High School by Brandywine School District.

>>>Thinking outside the box, would the students, suburban and city, be better off if the Vo-Tech model for 21st Century skills and academics was produced, allowing everyone to pursue a 21st Century vocation? After all, Charter schools are really just Vo-Techs for alternative careers, like banking and math. Incorporate the current NCC Vo-Tech and the Wilmington Improvement movement together. Bring in the 4 or 5 current districts for efficiency and tax across the County equally.

But, don't hang a "consolidated" Super Red Clay on us. Mixing districts has resulted in students missing their chance to specialize. Let the students buy into their own futures in the proven academic Vo-Tech model. Teach printing and cursive to Elementary students again. Skills matter!

Please, Do not doom Red Clay Citizens with an impossible task. Thank you, B Williams I believe your position is key to a successful outcome.

\*\* I was told by the head of the Dickenson HS Math Department, ""during your 3 week assignment in Statistics class, you will not teach anything because the students do not want to learn anything"". Implying the students were College Prep in name only.

If Wilmington is ever to be re-united as a City School District, we need two equal sized districts Brandywine (4000) and Red Clay (4000) brought up to speed, split and then recombined as a single City ~and a Suburban District."

**Date:** 11/22/2015 15:50:46

**Name:** Kim Hoeschel

**Affiliation:** Red Clay parent and resident

**Public Comment:** Since the Commission's funding committee has not been able to "reach consensus" on addressing the local revenue challenges, it's unfair and unreasonable to expect the public to support a proposal that lacks details on tax increases. The public may very well support reasonable and fair tax increases that would improve the education and meet the special needs of children living in poverty. However, until the Commission comes to a consensus and provides specifics, the public will not support this. No blank checks.

**Date:** 11/23/2015 15:53:18

**Name:** SUSAN KLINEFELTER

**Affiliation:** RETIREDE TEACHER (COLONIAL DISTRICT)

**Public Comment:** My idea to raise money for the state and update property values for taxation without expense to the state to asses all state properties: When properties are sold they need to be valued though assessment for financing or sale price for the new buyer. I think this is public record ??. Use this figure to determine taxable assessment for primary residential properties. It would be a rolling process as properties go up for sale. Other homes would stay at their current value until sold.

People who own a 2nd properties (like beach homes), rentals or apartment buildings should get updated assessments paid for by the state. Also commercial buildings need current tax assessments. This would provide more money for state coffers and school districts.

Respectfully submitted, SUSAN KLINEFELTER

Address removed.

**Date:** 11/28/2015 6:01:43

**Name:** Jon Mohr

**Affiliation:** Red Clay District Property Owner

**Public Comment:** I have a bad feeling that the property owners in the Red Clay School District will be bearing the brunt of the costs associated with this potential consolidation because of the political aspects of some of your recommendations. I am retired and on fixed incomes and so not get any increases, yet property and other costs keep going up. The state legislature is also thinking of cutting or eliminating the subsidies for the senior citizens' property owners to help balance the state's budget. Potential double jeopardy regarding property taxes.

Sincerely,

Jon R. Mohr

**Date:** 11/29/2015 18:29:15

**Name:** susan arruda

**Affiliation:** retired teacher, Court Appointed Special Advocate, Educational Surrogate Parent, school volunteer at Highlands, Red Clay taxpayer

**Public Comment:** I have read the entire report and agree that something must be done to empower the children in Wilmington AND their families. Most of the city schools lack the resources (financial, personnel, supplies and programs) that are present in (and expected to be in - by the stakeholders) suburban, more affluent schools. We must go back to the families - most with limited resources - and help them to realize that education is the road to success. But this also means that there needs to be a shift on the part of many city families - stop having children if you cannot provide for them; encourage the presence and involvement of fathers; stop the violent culture that affects the lives of these children. Utilize the schools as community centers; many urban parents see the schools as a threat due to their own non-positive experiences. I am extremely concerned that our local (suburban) legislators, many of whom have not shown up for community meetings, will vote this whole thing down. They only see the successful suburban schools and charter schools in their neighborhoods and will vote NO because it is what they perceive their voters want. It all ties down to money; if the state wants this to succeed, and it should, then the STATE must help with the finances that will be incurred to insure that ALL children have access to quality schools and programs that are equal to those in the suburbs.

**Date:** 11/30/2015 14:10:22

**Name:** Charles Potter, Jr.

**Affiliation:** State Representative

**Public Comment:** Please accept this email as my support of the Wilmington Education Commission's interim redistricting plan, which I believe will greatly improve the education of the City of Wilmington's youth. My legislative district is located in the First District in the City of Wilmington. City children have been disproportionately affected by desegregation, and I believe the WEIC's plan to reduce the school districts from four districts to two, and examine funding sources for students with extra needs, as part of their overall effort, will strengthen education in the City of Wilmington, and will prove to be very beneficial to the children in the City of Wilmington.

I urge the State Board of Education to accept the Wilmington Education Improvement Commission's plan in its entirety.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Charles Potter, Jr.  
Delaware House of Representatives  
State Representative, 1st District  
(302) 577-8476

**Date:** 12/1/2015 0:42:55

**Name:** Rachel Jarrell

**Affiliation:** parent of children in RCCSD & homeowner in district

**Public Comment:** It's understandable that there is a concern for children living in poverty, but there are children everywhere in the state suffering from this type of epidemic. Some of them are in small pockets "here and there", even in the "upper scale neighborhoods". Changing district dynamics aren't going to change parents/guardians involvement in the children's education and overall school intentness. You can't change people's behaviors and make them be involved just by changing the district lines. The parents/guardians with children in poverty first need improvement in wages and education for themselves to understand the importance of educational involvement and for the children they bring into the world. Lastly, there should have been a community wide vote to first see if this was the best choice in allowing the redistricting not just having the governor signing the WEIC into legislation.

**Date:** 12/1/2015 14:22:15

**Name:** Martha Buell

**Affiliation:** Parent of 2 Red Clay students

**Public Comment:** Why keep 4 school districts in New Castle county? One unified district would be cheaper and more equitable. Our entire state is the size of school districts in other states. Our current 19 districts and the assortment of charters is a waste of money and makes planning challenging. Consolidate. Don't create an inequitably challenged district out of the already existing inequity. Unify, Consolidate.

**Date:** 12/3/2015 23:34:49

**Name:** Sameer Patel

**Affiliation:** Linden Hill Parent

**Public Comment:** I don't see any benefit for current students and family living in red clay, all said an done we will be left with higher school tax bill and the uncertainty of potentially degraded school environment.

Lot of us had moved to the red clay school district mainly because of school rating and have paid premium for that while purchasing property, all of that is going to be in jeopardy with this proposed "redistricting"

So i am completely against this proposal which is being unduly forced upon us.

**Date:** 12/6/2015 17:19:25

**Name:** Nicole Carmean

**Affiliation:** Red Clay Parent

**Public Comment:** We need better resources in Red Clay for students with special needs. My son, who suffers from Asperger's, ADHD, and mood disorder, should not be getting suspended and have to resort to Rockford Hospital because the staff cannot handle him. Brandywine School District dealt with WORSE outbursts of his and worked WITH him. Red Clay is not equipped to deal with my son and HE and HIS future and HIS education are suffering. This mom wants to see more resources!

**Date:** 12/6/2015 17:43:12

**Name:** Venkat subramaniyam

**Affiliation:**

**Public Comment:** I am surprised that the governor who advocated a 3 school district formula is now suggesting this alternate plan. The ideal solution to the expanse of the quality of education is to limit the number of districts, thereby trimming administrative costs and focusing more on the quality of education. The current plan, though suggested by the committee, fails to aid in providing better quality of education. Shift of school district lines does not alter the core problem that all students in delaware faces, it only shifts the responsibility. I feel that by shifting these schols around, the better performing districts would be under added pressure and would result in the current poor performing districts look better and the current better performing district being pulled down in terms of the quality of education provided.

This plan only shows that the can is getting kicked down the road for a future failure. I strongly recommend doing away with the numerous districts currently in vogue and limiting the districts to a few and by possibly creating 1 greater wilmington school district with a 5 mile zone or the like from Caravel building. This might be a better solution rather than the one proposed in this plan.

**Date:** 12/8/2015 21:43:25

**Name:** william manning

**Affiliation:** Red Clay School District

**Public Comment:** My wife and I are seniors who live in the Red Clay School District. We finally retired and live on a very modest, fixed income. We never had children and have been paying our fair share of school and property taxes for over 35 years. Just this year, Red Clay passed a referendum that raised our property taxes yet another 500 dollars that we could barely afford. Having heard the Panel's realignment proposals to re-assess property taxes as a way to get money to help bolster the district so it can absorb Wilmington students and schools currently served by the Christina School District, we urge the Education Improvement Commission to understand that my wife and I, and many of our senior neighbors, cannot afford another increase in property taxes, or we may be forced to move from our homes that we worked so hard for. Please reconsider other options other than raising our property taxes again. Perhaps consider a sales tax instead so that everyone in Delaware pays for this education overhaul, and not just us property owners. Please.

**Date:** 12/9/2015 16:49:16

**Name:** Brooke Balan

**Affiliation:** Parent/ Red Clay Resident

**Public Comment:** Education can make a lasting difference in a child's life. But education is just not good for the child; it is good for the nation. Investing in education is not just the right thing to do, it is smart economics. ~ Yoka Brandt, UNICEF Deputy Executive Director

I do not claim to know the answers to the problems facing our State's education system. These are solely my opinions based on my experience as a lifelong resident of Delaware, a product of Red Clay schools, a mother of two daughters in Red Clay schools and a member of a PTO Board in Red Clay.

1. The educational system that we have now is not working for a number of our state's schools.
2. I am a proponent of Choice and Charter schools, was on the Board of a potential charter school, my oldest daughter is choiced into her middle school and both daughters have applied to charter/magnet schools for next year. However, in a perfect world, choice need not exist. In Delaware, there is a preponderance of these schools because families are dissatisfied with their traditional feeder schools. Why? The system that we have now is not working.
3. We need neighborhood schools. Parent involvement is key to student success. What facilitates a single parent working full time being able to attend his/her child's Meet Your Teacher Night- a five minute walk to a school in the community or an hour bus ride during rush hour traffic (if a bus route even exists) to a school in the next town? This summer, some students had their school's "open house" brought to their home. Kudos to all the people who made that happen. Your willingness to help these children is wildly applauded. But it shouldn't have to happen. These families should be able to attend their own open house. The system that we have now is not working.
4. A fair statewide property assessment is needed. An assessment hasn't been in 30-40 years depending on the county. Approximately a third of property owners are paying more than their fair share. However, I do not agree with the portion of the proposal that Red Clay would be given the authority to raise our taxes in the interim before a property assessment is done! It also seems to me (the person without a finance degree, mind you) that there is a large population of non-property owners who utilize the school system but do not pay any property/school tax. Is there some way to institute a renters' tax? The system that we have now is not working.

We need to look at our entire system, fix what is broken, replicate what is working and start rebuilding for our children's future. This should not be relegated to just the schools in question, nor even the districts in question. This is a state wide problem and needs to be addressed at that level. Teachers and administrators should not have to beg, borrow and steal for units and resources in order to meet the needs our children. I do not know if WEIC has the answers but at least they are searching for answers and that is what we need- a start to a long overdue discussion and revamping of our education system. Something needs to be done NOW.

Investing in our state's schools, ALL schools, and therefore ALL of our children is an investment in our future. And theirs. Without it, we have no future. Thank you. ~Brooke Balan

**Date:** 12/9/2015 23:33:51

**Name:** David Christel

**Affiliation:** Parent in Red Clay Consolidated School System (North Star)

**Public Comment:** As I find the goals of providing a quality education to all students all an admirable goal. Attempting to take a fully functional and fully funded school system and forcing an expansion could have a lessening of the quality of the Red Clay system.

What makes public schools run smoothly and provide a high quality education is simply the community. Red Clay has a solid community supporting it's schools system and providing the necessary resources to function at a high level. This partnership of school and community ensures the children of that community receive education envisioned by the community. Community backed bonds are voted in and capital improvements are supported. Endless hours of volunteer services from fund raisers and PTA organizations keep the schools functioning. Red Clay reflects the communities desire to have a high performing school system and that specific community in this district met the needs outlined by the school.

Altering this partnership is fraught with peril, for you are altering the implied agreement between the two partners, community and school. Upset this balance can shift the perception of how the local community views its school system and the implied contract has been voided.

Local boundaries and neighborhoods define a community and help define that communities identity. A school system is a clear indication of that communities priorities.

Fusing communities with little regard for their identity, which appears to be happening in this case where Red Clay is being asked to absorb a under performing system does not address Red Clay's community.

Fix the existing Christina system. Some communities have just different priorities and values, this is reflective in how that school system is run. Christina school system needs to reflect it's community and not attempt to take on another community identity. Red Clay should NOT be taking over another school system, they should continue to focusing on keeping inline with the implied contract with their existing community or risk of losing those resources that make Red Clay maintain that high quality education.

Thank you for your time,

Dave Christel

**Date:** 12/11/2015 14:31:49

**Name:** Charles Potter, Jr.

**Affiliation:** State Representative, First District

**Public Comment:** I have previously provided public comment in support of the Wilmington Education Improvement Commission's goal of having two school districts in the City of Wilmington. It is my understanding that the Commission is now in support of three school districts. I am writing to state that I am adamantly opposed to three school districts. The inclusion of Colonial as a third school district, which serves 178 students, yet receives \$3.8 million dollars does not benefit the children in the City of Wilmington. I urge the WEIC to support its original goal of two school districts in the City of Wilmington.

**Date:** 12/13/2015 22:31:33

**Name:** Kat Geralis

**Affiliation:** Realtor

**Public Comment:** I am very interested in this topic. Are there any ways to get more involved with the commission or become a part?

**Date:** 12/15/2015 16:26:22

**Name:** Cynthia LaRock

**Affiliation:** YWCA Delaware

**Public Comment:** Wilmington Education Initiative Commission Members,  
Working under the belief that all youth have the right to confidence, self-reliance and respect, I  
am reaching out as the Youth Director for YWCA Delaware to express our commitment to the  
process of improving the lives of Delaware's children through improved educational  
opportunities for Wilmington's students. The YWCA has a long history of being involved in the  
issues and concerns of Delaware's population and is strong in our commitment to Eliminate  
Racism and Empower Women.

As a lifetime resident of Delaware, a former Red-Clay parent and retired teacher who had the  
honor of working in both the Christina and Red Clay districts, I have kept abreast of and been a  
part of the educational scene in northern Delaware for over 30 years. My present position  
affords me the opportunity to lead a dedicated staff who provides quality programming to at-  
risk youth in schools throughout the state.

YWCA Delaware Youth programming brings focus to the topics that touch our youth and  
empowers them with the skills and drive to envision their future. Our mission is to build the  
strength of the community by empowering at-risk youth to maximize their personal and  
educational potential. Our signature program, YWCA Girl/YWCA Ready provides  
comprehensive and innovative college and career preparation, working with youth from ninth  
grade through high school graduation. We also facilitate Esteem workshops centered on the  
topics of: Character Development, Leadership, Self-Awareness and Respect, Conflict  
Resolution/Problem Solving and Decision Making, Diversity, Teen Violence Prevention and  
Healthy Relationship Building. In addition, we offer an Employability Series as well as a strong  
STEM program aimed at introducing young girls to female role models in the STEM field. Our I  
Am...Diversity Program is a 6 to 10 session series that helps students understand their own  
viewpoints, while aiding them in the development of advocacy skills. Our programs are  
objective and outcome driven and are correlated to the Pew Institute's 40 Developmental  
Assets.

The Commission's stated commitment to cross-sector initiatives and community partnerships,  
combined with leadership, governance and appropriate funding lays the groundwork for  
progress and success for our youth.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss our programs further with members of the Commission  
and look forward to doing so.

Respectfully,  
Cynthia LaRock  
YWCA Youth Program Director  
302-224-4060 ext. 215  
[clarock@ywcade.org](mailto:clarock@ywcade.org)

**Date:** 12/18/2015 8:09:32

**Name:** Joseph Zullo

**Affiliation:** Tax Payer

**Public Comment:** I am unable to support this change. As a current resident of Red Clay Consolidated School District, I am skeptical of this school board and Dr. Daugherty's ability to take on more of a work load when Dr. Daugherty and the school board continually ignore the issues plaguing Skyline Middle School. For three months, parents and students have approached the board to ask for relief and assistance for Skyline Middle School.

The school is currently at 111% capacity. Students do not feel safe at the school due to overcrowding and school bullying. Teachers are unable to teach because they are too busy correcting behavior and protecting students. If this school board is unable to help one school that is experiencing issues that the Board created, then how can anyone expect this board to have the ability to help additional schools in need.

**Date:** 1/1/2016 19:50:44

**Name:** James Marine

**Affiliation:** Red Clay

**Public Comment:** I am concerned that passing this will raise property taxes. I am in the area where I have lost half of my senior exemption. With major companies leaving the state, I am afraid that I will not be able to afford to live in Delaware as a senior on a fixed income.