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Local Letters to the Editor

Cranford Edu Reimagine Devolved Into Where Individual Egos Prevail

For some, Monday October 8, 2018 was a day off from work commemorating the arrival of Christopher Columbus to our country, but for Cranford, this was the introduction of the word Reimagine.

The introduction of Reimagine by our non-paid elected school board, though introduced with good intentions, quickly devolved into a situation, where individuals were guided by their egos, which isn't consistent with the hopes and dreams of the common Cranford citizen.

Whether it was the hours of meetings that I attended in person, watched on TV35, or speaking to parents and seniors- the standard response was: "let's invest our tax dollars into infrastructure and directly into the classroom." Unfortunately, the Cranford BOE continues to push educational policies that divert taxes to a busing policy. Only one member, Maria Liokith, stood up against busing! Some members of the Cranford School Board went as far as telling parents that change is hard.

As a grandson of educators, son of educators, and a husband of an educator, I have heard change is extremely hard. Educators have changed their teaching methods continuously to ensure the academic success of students.

Change was hard for my wife and I, when we uprooted our

sons from the only place we ever called home, Brooklyn, N.Y. to settle in Cranford. Even with all of the unknowns, we made this change because it offered the ability to thrive for years to come. Our change has been amazing!

In my opinion, the majority of voters do not see the change proposed in the policies that contain busing as an opportunity to thrive. As I write, the school survey results haven't been released to the community, so maybe my opinion will be proven wrong. My position from the start of Reimagine is the following: every dollar spent on a bus, is a dollar out of the classroom or the pocket of a taxpayer. The failure of the school board to listen has now placed our neighborhood schools at risk and left our residents in an unfamiliar place- a state of disharmony amongst our neighbors and friends.

To ensure a fiscally-responsible re-investment of our taxes into our schools for long-term academic success, the school board should take the following measures:

Public announcement by mid-June of the elimination of busing plans 1 thru 7

Citizen Referendum Committee, representing taxpayers who are parents and non-parents. To eliminate the busing agenda of the BOE, it should report directly into School Superinten-

dent, Dr. Scott Rubin.

Independent analysis to develop a five-year plan (Curriculum and legislation, Infrastructure).

Funding of a grant writer to capture both government and private sector dollars to position for the 4th Industrial Revolution, but not on the backs of the Cranford taxpayer.

Cranford School Board, please finally join the walk that the voters started months ago to ensure our neighborhood schools are positioned for academic success, while striving towards academic excellence. Walk with me.

Kevin Comer
Cranford

Make The Cranford Development Age-Restricted

Rather than arguing about the potential numbers of Cranford public school children generated by the planned apartments at 750 Walnut Avenue (article, May 16), why not make the development an age 55+ community? This change will also address rush hour traffic concerns because many of the residents will be retirees and some will not own vehicles. There is likely a strong market demand for reasonably priced, "non-luxury" (rent \$1,500 to \$2,000 per month) adult-only apartments in the Cranford area.

John Cantilli
Cranford

Probitas Verus Honos



LOVE FOR MOM...Members of the Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield pay a visit to the Jardine Academy in Cranford, where they joined the staff in working with children there on Mother's Day planters. Pictured, from left to right, are: Lena Peitsinovski, Alice Cowell, Beth Siano, Faten Mahran, Jane Christiani, Mary Lou Nolas, a Jardine staff member and Mary Fran Anness.

Rake and Hoe Visits Jardine For Mother's Day Activity

CRANFORD — As part of their service commitment to the Westfield community and Union County, the Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield joined the staff at the Jardine Academy of the Cerebral Palsy League in Cranford on May 3 to create Mother's Day planters with some of the children. More than 50 planters were created for the moms.

The Jardine Academy, operated by the Cerebral Palsy League and approved by the New Jersey Department of Education, provides a comprehensive educational program designed to meet the cognitive and physical needs

of children and young adults, ages 3 to 21, with multiple disabilities.

The Rake and Hoe Garden Club is affiliated with the Garden Club of New Jersey and the National Garden Club, Inc. The club meets on the second Wednesday of the month, at noon, at the Scotch Hills Country Club in Scotch Plains. Membership is open to residents of Westfield and surrounding towns.

For more information, call Jeanne Marie Ryan at (908) 654-0271 or visit the club's website, rakeandhoe.org, or its Facebook page.