

- allowing districts such as ours to retain local control, working closely with our supervisory union, so that community assets such as the Peacham Observatory, Historical Society, and Peacham Library continue to be integrated into the learning experience.

We consider it an educational advantage to raise our children within this community, as they grow and learn to consider themselves active and responsible citizens of this town; rather than restricting the opportunities that our children have, we are providing them with a rich array of activities that are intimately connected to a sense of place and community. We are working both to connect to our heritage and to reach out towards 21st century learning (technology, STEM, etc.).

We work closely with our assigned Supervisory Union, and we look for ways to enhance opportunities for our students and to make financial prudent decisions by using the resources of the SU, and we would like to continue to do so. For example: Shared teachers (music, language); shared transportation services; shared Extended Learning Opportunities program through grant money; shared sports programs; shared curriculum work to design units of learning in math, reading, and science. We do not see ourselves as completely separate to the broader community, and that we are working within reason to make adjustments without sacrificing local control.

Peacham is a small community, and if our students are absorbed into a larger group, the representation in governance would be so minimal that its individual students and situation would not be likely to be considered in conversations considering either academic or financial decisions.

We are asking to be recognized as a district that has established an outstanding educational foundation. Many community activities center around this foundation -- it draws new residents and visitors. We understand the needs and costs of maintaining our school, and generations of Peacham residents proudly support the school as a cultural center in our community. We would lose more than could possibly be gained if the Peacham Elementary School would be forced to close.

We respectfully ask that you consider our position as parents, residents, friends and concerned citizens.

Anna Rubin and Craig Harrison
Annie Sproston and David Jacobs

• Andrea Kane

Lorraine and Mark Clough

Jennifer and John Burchell

Jennifer and John Mackenzie

Heather and Ross MacDonald

Diana Senturia

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