

**Advocate 10/23/09**

## **Keep student grouping**

To the editor:

Imagine that you are an avid photographer. You have years of practice and are quite skillful in your craft. You decide you want further professional development so you look for a photography school. You discover two schools nearby. One offers a masters class which requires the very experience and achievement you have in order to enter the class. The other school offers only one class. It is a one-size-fits-all class that purports that all learners will excel by working together. In this class you will be assigned to a team to work on projects. On this team will be people who have never taken a single photography class before. Which school would you want to attend?

In the real world a class like the second one doesn't even exist because every professional school knows no master would sign up to be an unpaid teacher. They also know that beginners will want to be with other beginners to be sure the class will address their needs and move at a pace they can keep up with. So why is the Stamford Board of Education forcing on our children a model that the real world has rejected as impractical? For the sake of our children and the value of our homes, I support the candidates for Board of Education that have been endorsed by [KeepGrouping.org](http://KeepGrouping.org), Polly Rauh, Jerry Pia and Lorraine Olson.

Valerie Byrnes

Stamford