

July 14, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is William Davenport and I am a life-long resident of Litchfield. I am writing to express my interest in serving as one of the three Litchfield positions on the Region 20 Board of Education. Below is a summary of my qualifications and experiences in education that I feel can help contribute to the process of developing this historic and exciting endeavor for the students of all four towns and for the community.

### **Familiar with the Litchfield Public Schools**

I was born in Litchfield, attended Center School (K to 3), Bantam School (4 and 5), Junior High School (6 to 8) and graduated from LHS in 1981, and both of my daughters attended Litchfield schools.

### **Involvement on the Temporary Regional School District Study Committee**

I served on the original Litchfield Work Group on Collaboration Committee and most recently I served as Co-Chair of the Temporary Regional School Study Committee (TRSSC) and helped to bring the plan to the voters for approval. Serving on both committees, I am familiar with all aspects of the plan that was approved by the State Board of Education in May and then approved by all four towns on June 28.

### **Over 3 Decades of Experience with Education and Agriscience Programs**

I taught agriscience and technology at the Ellis Clark Regional Agriscience and Technology program at Nonnewaug High School in Woodbury for 33 years.

Besides my 33 years of experience in the classroom as a teacher in Region 14, I served for many years on several school-wide committees including the master schedule building committee, curriculum committee, school improvement committee and several NEASC Accreditation committees over the past 3 decades.

I also served as the program director of the program made up of over 330 students from over 22 surrounding towns, making up over one third of the student population of Nonnewaug High School.

As the agriscience program director, I had 14 years of experience in the following areas:

- Developed, implemented and managed department budgets of \$110,000 annually.
- Managed the program consisting of 330 students, 10 staff and facilities totaling over 36,000 square feet.
- Developed and implemented a rigorous curriculum for the department.
- Developed and administered our extensive adult education program with over 30 courses and 250+ participants each year.
- Managed our Supervised Agricultural Experience program (work experience program) where each sophomore, junior and senior student (240 students) is placed at an agricultural business and must accumulate at least 200 hours of work experience each year in order to be in good standing in the agriscience program.

- Was in charge of marketing and recruitment for the agriscience program, including planning and running our annual Recruitment Open House, with over 500 people in attendance each year, recruiting presentations to 22 area middle schools, interviewing and evaluating applications from over 160 8<sup>th</sup> graders each year.
- Developed, wrote and received 10 different state agriscience equipment and facilities grants, totaling over \$2.8 million dollars to enhance our agriscience program and facilities.

Through my involvement as President of the Connecticut Association of Agricultural Educators (CAAE) and as a state FFA advisor, I am very familiar with the Wamogo Agriscience program and FFA chapter.

I have also been actively involved with the National FFA Organization including having served as a member of the National FFA Board of Directors from 2013 to 2016 and as a member of the National FFA Alumni and Supporters Council from 2016 to 2021.

#### **Former Member of the State Board of Education**

I served as a member of the State Board of Education from 2016 to 2021, serving on the Accountability Committee and the Legislation and Bylaws Committees, and helped create the Connecticut State Board of Education's Five-year Comprehensive Plan 2016-21 entitled Ensuring Equity and Excellence for All Connecticut Students during my tenure on the Board.

Because of my experiences as an agriscience program director and as a State Board member, I have many years of first-hand experience in interacting with the Department of Education on many different levels.

Thank you for considering me as a candidate for one of the three Litchfield representatives on the Region 20 Board of Education. Having been an advocate for this merger for several decades, I am excited to offer my assistance in developing Region 20 into a dynamic and exemplary school system for our current and future students and for our communities.

Sincerely,



William Davenport

Litchfield, CT 06759

**William P. Davenport**  
Litchfield County UConn Extension 4-H Educator

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**Education**

- 1985 Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science, University of Connecticut
- 1986 Master's Degree in Animal Science, University of Connecticut
- 1994 6<sup>th</sup> Year Diploma in Administration and Supervision, Southern Connecticut State University

**Work Experience**

- 2019 to present: UConn 4-H Educator Faculty Position, Litchfield County Extension
- 1986 to 2019: Agriscience Teacher, Nonnewaug High School, Woodbury, Connecticut
- 2004 to 2019: Director of the Ellis Clark Regional Agriscience and Technology Program

**Scholarly Publications**

- *Operation Community Impact responds to food insecurity and challenges faced by dairy producers*, 11/21/20 Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development, ISSN: 2152-0801  
[www.foodsystemsjournal.org](http://www.foodsystemsjournal.org)

**Honors Received**

- 2004 Connecticut State Teacher of the Year
- 2004-2005 NAAE Outstanding Agricultural Education Teacher for Region VI
- 2005 NAAE Syngenta Advocate for Agricultural Education Teacher Award
- Member of the USA Today's 2005 All-USA Teacher Team
- 2007 NAAE Teacher Mentor Award for Region VI