

<mazzariello@newtown.k12.ct.us>

Sent: Fri, Jan 25, 2013 9:37 pm

Subject: Re: Super Bowl

Dear Craig,

I'm afraid I must defer your questions and concerns to Superintendent Robinson as any approval to do this was not made by me. Donna

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 25, 2013, at 5:37 PM, "Craig T. Hoekenga II, Esq." <craig@hdmlegal.com> wrote:

Donna,

I left a few messages for you today to discuss the Super Bowl trip next week but did not hear back so I am writing you this email. I understand how busy you are and must be swamped with things to do so I assume email may be best. First, I just wanted to thank you so much for coming back to Sandy Hook to lead our school again. It means the world to the kids. Second, I just wanted to voice my, and numerous other families, frustration over the trip to the Super Bowl next week that is being offered to the 26 "randomly" selected students. Let me preface all of this by saying that even if CJ (4th grade - Varga) was "selected" to go, we could not in good conscience have looked Matthew (2nd Grade - Wexler) in the eye and tell him he is not invited. We have so many questions. i.e. Who approved this trip in the first place? Why was it only open to the 4th grade class? Etc. It seems to me that it was a very ill advised decision when you do a simple cost / benefit analysis. The only benefit I see is that the 26 selected students and their parent are able to go on a once in a lifetime trip. The cost is all of the other students jealousy, anger and animosity over not being given same opportunity. We had to explain to our two boys last night that life is sometimes unfair. It seems that we just had this same discussion with them the evening of December 14 and the days that have followed. We, as parents, and especially our children do not need nor deserve these feelings right now. I am speaking on behalf of numerous families who are going through the same issues with their children whom I am sure you will also hear from. I believe that there has not been a complete outcry so far because it has been kept so hush hush. I do not want to sugar coat this in any way. I believe that what is in the best interests of all Sandy Hook students, not just the 26 chosen students, is to cancel this event entirely. Furthermore, I believe that it is an insult to those lost that anyone would be heading down to a festive event (limos, private jets; special dinners etc.) such as the Super Bowl when there is NO benefit to their memory or Sandy Hook School in general. Lastly, how can you justify taking these 26 students out of school for another 3 days after we just had to request a waiver from the state. Please forgive my frustration, but enough is enough. These kids have to get back to learning and let me warn you that Sandy Hook School will move backward, not forward, from the jealousy, animosity and anger that is already being shown. Please confirm that you have received this email. Thanks again for your service and I know you, and the district, will do the right thing.

Regards,

Craig T. Hoekenga II, Esq.  
HOEKENGA & MACHADO, LLC  
Attorneys and Counselors at Law

<mazzariello@newtown.k12.ct.us>

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IN ERROR, AND THAT ANY REVIEW, DISTRIBUTION, DISSEMINATION OR COPYING OF THIS MESSAGE IS PROHIBITED. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS COMMUNICATION IN ERROR, PLEASE NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY BY RETURN EMAIL OR BY TELEPHONE (203) 792-3300 AND IMMEDIATELY DESTROY THIS MESSAGE AND ALL OF ITS ATTACHMENTS. THANK YOU.

-----Original Message-----

From: Donna Page <[paged@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:paged@newtown.k12.ct.us)>  
To: Craig T. Hoekenga II, Esq. <[craig@hdmlegal.com](mailto:craig@hdmlegal.com)>  
Cc: robinsonj <[robinsonj@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:robinsonj@newtown.k12.ct.us)>; Cathy Mazzariello <[mazzariello@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:mazzariello@newtown.k12.ct.us)>  
Sent: Fri, Jan 25, 2013 9:37 pm  
Subject: Re: Super Bowl

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Regards,

Craig T. Hoekenga II, Esq.  
HOEKENGA & MACHADO, LLC  
Attorneys and Counselors at Law  
193 Main Street  
Danbury, Connecticut 06810  
[www.HDMLegal.com](http://www.HDMLegal.com)

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P - (203) 792-3300 x 301  
F - (203) 792-3700

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*This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. Please notify the sender immediately if you have received this email by mistake and delete this email from your system.*

*Note that any views or opinions presented in this email are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the Newtown Public Schools.*

*Finally, the recipient should check this email and any attachments for the presence of viruses. The organization accepts no liability for any damage caused by any virus transmitted by this email.*

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**From:** Board Of Education <boedebbie@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 31, 2013 9:46 AM  
**To:** Craig T. Hoekenga II, Esq.  
**Cc:** whartboe@gmail.com; lrocheboe@gmail.com; r.gaines.boe@charter.net;  
kalexander.boe@gmail.com; codym.boe@gmail.com; danaholcombhouse@yahoo.com;  
pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov; robinsonj@newtown.k12.ct.us  
**Subject:** Re: Super Bowl

Dear Mr. Hoekenga,

Please accept my apologies for a delayed response. I am finding it difficult to keep up with all the correspondence I am receiving on a daily basis. I also wanted to be sure I understood all the facts regarding this trip before responding.

Regard,  
Debbie Leidlein  
Chair, Newtown Board of Education  
Sent from my iPad

On Jan 31, 2013, at 9:33 AM, "Craig T. Hoekenga II, Esq." <[craig@hdmlegal.com](mailto:craig@hdmlegal.com)> wrote:

First Selectwoman Llodra and rest of the Board of Education,

Please see the email correspondence that was sent to Ms. Robinson 6 days ago and to Ms. Leidlein this past Monday, as of this moment, we have not heard back from either. Please note that that our inquiries re: the Super Bowl Trip and other misguided decisions are just beginning. As such, please explain to Ms. Robinson and Ms. Leidlein that their silence on this issue will not make it go away. We cannot understand how the Board could have approved an "anonymous donation" to Sandy Hook that did not explain to the public what the donation was nor, more importantly, its value. We have laid out some of the reasons for our outrage re: the trip below but just to reiterate, the fact that anyone in our town would think it was appropriate to send 20 children (and we say 20 because we obviously believe that the victims families should be given the opportunity) down to the Super Bowl when there are 20 families in our town who are grieving beyond what we can even imagine is outright insane. My son Matthew was in Ms. Wexlers class, directly across the hall from the carnage. He saw, heard and smelled things that no 7 year old should ever experience. He is traumatized on many levels but we do not consider him a victim. There were 20 babies massacred on Dec 14, they and their families are the victims. Did anyone reach out to these families to see what their opinion was re: this trip? I think not. It was a selfish and self serving decision. Next, let us point out the "value" of this donation. Many would argue that it is actually a priceless opportunity. However, we took the liberty to do some research and we found that the cost of a package such as this (Airfare, 5 days, 4 nights hotel, all food, tickets to the game, on field experience etc) would run anywhere from \$25K to \$30K PER PERSON. This would put the value of the "anonymous donation" at \$1,300,000 to \$1,560,000. Do the math and check the price of these packages yourself. This means that a \$1,250,000 (please note that we deducted \$250K for the victims families that deserve to be there) "anonymous donation" to the school was spent on 20 children in a district of how many students? OUTRAGEOUS. Again, our inquiries are just beginning and we would like you to shed any light that you can on this very important issue.  
Regards,

Craig T. Hoekenga II, Esq.  
HOEKENGA & MACHADO, LLC

7/30/2015

Gmail - (no subject)



William Hart <whartboe@gmail.com>

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**(no subject)**

3 messages

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Dani Thibodeau <thibodeau@educationconnection.org> Thu, Jan 10, 2013 at 10:03 AM  
To: "Dr. Dani Thibodeau" <thibodeau@educationconnection.org>, "Dr. Peter Ohring" <peter.ohring@gmail.com>, Lynette Celli Rigdon <lrigdon@yahoo.com>, "Mike D'Agostino (1)" <mdagostino@reddingps.org>, "Mike D'Agostino (2)" <mdags4@aol.com>, "Richard Jannelli (1)" <treka13@comcast.net>, "Richard Jannelli (2)" <richj@gymsource.com>, Valerie Andersen <cpavja@aol.com>, Victor Katz <victorkatz.boe@gmail.com>, William Hart <whartboe@gmail.com>

Good morning,

The Western Connecticut Superintendents Association, to which your superintendent belongs, is hosting a CAFE Legislative Breakfast tomorrow. I assumed that you were aware of the legislative breakfast. A number of legislators will be attending. In case you were not aware of it, below is information:

Friday, January 11, 2013 at 8:00 am.  
Education Connection  
345 Main Street  
Building (New England Plaza)  
Danbury, CT

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend, but Jonathan will be representing the agency.

Best Regards,  
Dani

--  
Danuta M. Thibodeau, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
EDUCATION CONNECTION  
355 Goshen Road

Page 65

From: Laura Roche <lrocheboe@gmail.com>  
To: newtownboe <newtownboe@newtown.k12.ct.us>  
Date: 1/23/2013 8:33:14 AM  
Subject: Fwd: Kindergarten ECS Proposal

FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: John Vouros  
Date: Wednesday, January 23, 2013  
Subject: Fwd: Kindergarten ECS Proposal  
To: Debbie Leidlein <boedebbie@gmail.com>, laura <lrocheboe@gmail.com>

FYI. would one of you press your BOE all button and get this to the four commandoes? Thanks.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Hemingway, Sarah" <Sarah.Hemingway@ct.gov>  
Date: January 22, 2013, 4:52:51 PM EST  
To: "danaholcombehouse@yahoo.com" <danaholcombehouse@yahoo.com>  
Subject: Kindergarten ECS Proposal

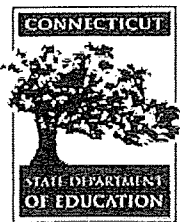
Mr. Vouros,

Here is the link to the proposed bill: <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2013/TOB/S/2013SB-00160-R00-SB.htm>. It is not fully drafted, but that's the summary. The Senator who proposed it is Senator Beth Bye, vice-chair of the Education Committee. I will let her know that you are interested in discussing it with her.

So good to see you!

Sarah

Sarah Hemingway, Legislative Liaison  
Connecticut Department of Education  
165 Capitol Ave., Room 308  
(o) 860-713-6493  
(m) 860-478-5943  
(e) [Sarah.Hemingway@ct.gov](mailto:Sarah.Hemingway@ct.gov)



Google Groups

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**Fwd: Board of Education**

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Laura Roche <lrocheboe@gmail.com>  
Posted in group: Newtown BOE

Jan 15, 2013 6:09 PM

FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Dolan, Casey (NBCUniversal) <Casey.Dolan@nbcunl.com>  
Date: Tue, Jan 15, 2013 at 5:52 PM  
Subject: Board of Education  
To: lrocheboe@gmail.com

Laura:

Good evening! Hope your day is going well and things have calmed down a little since the New Year. As a fellow CT girl (I am from New Canaan) - I keep your entire town in my thoughts. I was working in Newtown for a few days after the shooting and continue to pray for everyone there.

As you probably know, the President is releasing his gun control recommendations tomorrow and Superintendent Robinson is attending a panel in DC tomorrow. We are interested in inviting the Superintendent on our program (MSNBC's "The Last Word w. Lawrence O'Donnell - the 10pm show) tomorrow night and I was wondering if you had a direct # or cell for her. If you don't feel comfortable giving out the information then I would love if you could pass on my contact information below.

Thank you so much and hope to speak to you soon!

Best,

Casey Dolan

Producer

MSNBC's *The Last Word with Lawrence O'Donnell*

30 Rockefeller Plaza, 514E  
(w) 212-664-0409  
(c) 646-468-6245

<http://thelastword.msnbc.com>



Google Groups

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**Redistricting Resolution**

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Richard Gaines, BoE <r.gaines.boe@charter.net>

Jan 15, 2013 6:54 PM

Posted in group: Newtown BOE

Attached and copied below is the resolution regarding redistricting - or not - Sandy Hook.

We will discuss on Thursday but perhaps we can read it at tonight's meeting.

--

**Richard Gaines**

Newtown Board of Education  
newtownboe@newtown.k12.ct.us  
Capital Improvement / Facilities / Finance Committee, Chair  
Security Committee  
Technology Committee  
telephone: (203) 270-9614

I am a member of the Board of Education but the information provided here reflects my personal opinion and not, necessarily, the position of the Board. Additionally, this communique is not intended for further distribution beyond the originally addressed recipient(s) without the written consent of the author. If you have received this email by mistake, please notify me immediately and delete this email from your system.

A Board Of Education Redistricting Resolution

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**Whereas**, the families in the Sandy Hook Elementary School District have suffered through the traumatic events of December 14, 2012 and the days following and,

**Whereas**, the families in the Sandy Hook Elementary School District have a very close communal bond which has strengthened over the last month and,

**Whereas**, the families in the Sandy Hook Elementary School District have demonstrated amazing strength, fortitude and resilience and,

**Whereas**, the Newtown and Monroe Superintendents of Schools and Boards of Education have worked with hundreds of volunteers to transform the Chalk Hill School facility in Monroe into an incredibly safe and nurturing environment in order to keep the Sandy Hook Elementary School kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade students together as they continue their education and,

**Whereas**, the community has expressed gratitude for these efforts and a fervent desire to continue and maintain the Sandy Hook Elementary School District and its community of families upon the school's return to Newtown regardless of the location and nature of school to which they will return or begin to attend,

**Be It Resolved** that the Newtown Board of Education will make every effort to honor the expressed desire of the families in the Sandy Hook Elementary School District and others in the Town of Newtown by committing to minimize or, preferably, avoid entirely any redistricting of the Sandy Hook Elementary School District as we determine how we will provide an environment in Newtown that is as safe and nurturing as the Chalk Hill School facility in Monroe to which we have been able to send them in the interim.

---

**From:** Board Of Education <boedebbie@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 31, 2013 10:05 AM  
**To:** Craig T. Hoekenga II, Esq.  
**Cc:** whartboe@gmail.com; lrocheboe@gmail.com; r.gaines.boe@charter.net;  
kalexander.boe@gmail.com; codym.boe@gmail.com; danaholcombhouse@yahoo.com;  
pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov; robinsonj@newtown.k12.ct.us  
**Subject:** Re: Super Bowl

Sorry, I hit send before I finished.

I have spoken with many of those involved in the decision process and my understanding is that victims families were consulted in the process. With that said, however, I can understand your concerns and believe they are valid. We are navigating uncharted territory and are going to make mistakes along the way. I have had several discussions with Donna Page with regard to this trip and other such offerings which would only be extended to a small number of the Sandy Hook family, causing undo stress and causing a break in the routine for students. After speaking with her I have a new understanding of how these offers are affecting our community. Please know that our intention was not to cause any stress to an already grieving community.

I appreciate you sharing your thoughts on this matter.

Regard,  
Debbie Leidlein  
Chair, Newtown Board of Education  
Sent from my iPad

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-----Original Message-----

From: Craig T. Hoekenga II, Esq. <[craig@hdmlegal.com](mailto:craig@hdmlegal.com)>  
To: robinsonj <[robinsonj@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:robinsonj@newtown.k12.ct.us)>  
Sent: Wed, Jan 30, 2013 7:01 pm  
Subject: Re: Super Bowl

Dr. Robinson,

The courtesy of a reply would be appreciated. Please see below. If your lack of response is due to the fact that you have forwarded our inquiries to counsel, please let us know that so we can await their response. Please confirm receipt of these emails.  
Regards,

Craig T. Hoekenga II, Esq.  
HOEKENGA & MACHADO, LLC  
Attorneys and Counselors at Law  
193 Main Street  
Danbury, Connecticut 06810  
[www.HDMLegal.com](http://www.HDMLegal.com)

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## Google Groups

## Fwd: Letter

Laura Roche &lt;lrocheboe@gmail.com&gt;

Feb 9, 2013 10:08 AM

Posted in group: Newtown BOE

I was asked to forward this email to the board...

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Caren Wellman <cwellms@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Feb 8, 2013 at 3:33 PM

Subject: Letter

To: Laura Roche <lrocheboe@gmail.com>, Debbie Leidein <debbie.leidein@gmail.com>

I would appreciate this letter being forwarded to the members of Newtown Board of Education.  
Best Regards,  
Caren Wellman

Those of you who know me know this post is coming. For several weeks I have held my tongue and reminded myself each day that peace begins with me. On 12-14-12 the worst happened here and I shared my grief publicly on FB. Our backs were broken, the pain was all around, the helpless feelings I had for my family, my friends, and my community physically hurt my body. I watched people grieve without judgment. Some people worked at the warehouse, some people raised over a million dollars, some people hung snowflakes, some people hung bells, some people posted pictures on FB, and some people became politically active. We were all hurting but holding one another up and learning how to walk again each in our own way.

After the tragedy I spoke openly about what a blessing NYA was to our community. The NYA opened its doors to our community when we needed it most. The kids ran, the parents hugged, it was where our healing process began. We were weary and overwhelmed and during those dark days it was a place we could go. Through the tragedy and the days that followed a friend of mine followed my posts on FB. The world heard our cries and wanted to help. Tim Hayes was one of those people. Tim drove to Newtown to see for himself what the NYA was all about.

Tim Hayes began a project that he felt could bring our community together. Tim contacted Ingrid Michaelson and thus began the Sandy Hook Project. Tim's vision was to find a group of children who would sing the song Somewhere Over the Rainbow. The song had a message...the song was about staying together. It was a song of prayer.

Tim tried very hard to meet with Janet Robinson but was unsuccessful. This is understood. A lot was happening and this did not need to involve Newtown Public Schools. Tim wanted to explain the project and being an outsider really did not know where to go. Interestingly enough, Pat Llodra found time to sit down with Tim and hear the details of the project. The song was going to be released on iTunes and Amazon with the proceeds going to NYA and the United Way. The entire project was structured with lawyers involved, it was all done by the book.

Some time has now passed and those of you that know me know that I deal from my own deck. Yesterday Janet Robinson spoke with CNN condemning this project and saying these are not our kids. I find it interesting that Janet was never able to meet with Tim but now has the time to be conducting interviews with CNN. Sabrina Post was a former employee of NFS and there is controversy surrounding her involvement. This is where it becomes personal for me.

My daughter [redacted] was a part of this project. I knew full well that Sabrina Post had a history in Newtown that caused her both professional and personal humiliation. To be clear here, Sabrina has had absolutely no involvement with finances. The idea that the children involved in this project were exploited sickens me. Every parent who participated had full knowledge of the mission of the song. These were children that wanted to be a part of the healing process, these were children that wanted to help. If CNN were to interview 4 year old [redacted] she would say she was singing for Newtown. We have 26 angels that can no longer sing and this particular song honors them. [redacted] does not know what happened in her hometown but she knows something is very different. I am a mother first. I am a mother who needs her kids to be resilient. My kids understand my commitment to this town and leaving it better than I found it. My community had no choice on 12-14-12 but we do have choices on how we move forward. Our family felt this project valued something...the idea that we stand together. Whether it is on the football field, wrestling mat, the Super Bowl, or singing at MSG... we stand together. Questioning the integrity of this project involves me personally. I care deeply about this community and the ongoing support that will be required for years to come. The longterm statistics will scare you. Our teachers, first responders and the families of the victims need all hands on deck and I hope you can see where a community center can be a part of that. We can mitigate future damage to our children's future with a community that provides ongoing healing. NYA has risen to the challenge and wants to be here with programs for years to come.

I find it sad that a song meant to unite a community has become divisive.

I would never allow my child to partipate in a project that did not have integrity. Tomorrow night these children will be singing Somewhere Over the Rainbow to a national audience and it is my understanding that a significant donation is going to be made to Newtown. It costs the NYA \$6000 a day to operate, can someone help me understand where a substantial donation is a negative thing? Money cannot replace what we lost but if my child has the power to sing a song that can help a good cause please help me to understand why it is wrong. Does it matter that we go to HOM and not SHS? It astounds me that we would focus on details like that when the goal all along was about helping the community. I have observed many things over the past few weeks. Friendships revealed, people who can lead during a crisis, unverified media reports, and people who will always look for the negative angle. Here's what I know. At the heart of this is a producer and a group of kids who sang a song meant to lift us. It is a song that will provide funding for ongoing healing activities at NYA. Victims families, first responders...all of us will benefit from a community center that embraces the need for ongoing support. Interestingly enough, the superintendent's office just email blasted information about a four part series of healing events taking place at NYA. NYA has pledged their support and the negative spin just does not need to be there. It is unfortunate that CNN did not sit down with Pat Llodra who took the time to understand this project from the onset.

So tomorrow you all have a choice. You can choose to question Sabrina, the children chosen, the producer, the parents involved, the kids involved and obviously you can choose not to watch. Or you can choose to listen to the words and the message and accept the fact that that everyone involved with this project and this song did it with the best of intentions.

Newtown I loved you before, I love you now, and I will continue to love my hometown. We are center stage and the world is watching. The unthinkable happened here. We have suffered, we have endured, but we can show the world that despite our weary arms and broken hearts we are standing together and we will carry on. We are Newtown.

Wishing you peace and healing in the days to come.

Caren Wellman

From: Laura Roche <lrocheboe@gmail.com>  
To: newtownboe <newtownboe@newtown.k12.ct.us>,  
"Dr. Janet Robinson" <robinsonj@newtown.k12.ct.us>  
Date: 2/9/2013 11:08:45 AM  
Subject: Fwd: Letter

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I was asked to forward this email to the board...

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Caren Wellman <cwellms@gmail.com>  
Date: Fri, Feb 8, 2013 at 3:33 PM  
Subject: Letter  
To: Laura Roche <lrocheboe@gmail.com>, Debbie Leidlein <debbie.leidlein@gmail.com>

I would appreciate this letter being forwarded to the members of Newtown Board of Education.  
Best Regards,  
Caren Wellman

Those of you who know me know this post is coming. For several weeks I have held my tongue and reminded myself each day that peace begins with me. On 12-14-12 the worst happened here and I shared my grief publicly on FB. Our backs were broken, the pain was all around, the helpless feelings I had for my family, my friends, and my community physically hurt my body. I watched people grieve without judgement. Some people worked at the warehouse, some people raised over a million dollars, some people hung snowflakes, some people hung bells, some people posted pictures on FB, and some people became politically active. We were all hurting but holding one another up and learning how to walk again each in our own way.

After the tragedy I spoke openly about what a blessing NYA was to our community. The NYA opened its doors to our community when we needed it most. The kids ran, the parents hugged, it was where our healing process began. We were weary and overwhelmed and during those dark days it was a place we could go. Through the tragedy and the days that followed a friend of mine followed my posts on FB. The world heard our cries and wanted to help. Tim Hayes was one of those people. Tim drove to Newtown to see for himself what the NYA was all about.

Tim Hayes began a project that he felt could bring our community together. Tim contacted Ingrid Michaelson and thus began the Sandy Hook Project. Tim's vision was to find a group of children who would sing the song Somewhere Over the Rainbow. The song had a message...the song was about staying together. It was a song of prayer.

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Caren Wellman

From: [Laura Roche <lrocheboe@gmail.com>](mailto:Laura Roche <lrocheboe@gmail.com>)  
To: [newtownboe <newtownboe@newtown.k12.ct.us>](mailto:newtownboe <newtownboe@newtown.k12.ct.us>)  
Date: 2/10/2013 12:58:55 PM  
Subject: Fwd: Tim Hayes, the producer, posted a response on Facebook

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Here it is

### Tim Hayes

Saying "never again" is only a bumper sticker unless it is followed with action. A national platform is absolutely necessary to create change in national policy.

Approximately 30 million people are expected to watch tonight. The highlights of the show will be re-played again and again in the media creating literally billions of positive impressions around the world. The producers created a rare opportunity for young residents of Newtown to finally speak for themselves to a global audience.

TO BE CLEAR: The producers have no political agenda. They simply wanted to pay tribute to the lost souls and let Newtown speak (& sing) for it's self while the world was listening. To date, none of the other shows (GMA, Super Bowl, Knicks) had presented an opportunity like this where young Newtown residents could actually talk on camera and say whatever they wanted. It would be LIVE so no one could edit it or twist it.

This project was never about kids getting on TV or anyone becoming famous. Because of the nature of the Grammys, the opportunity revolved directly around the live performance of the prayer Somewhere Over the Rainbow.

This is an old cliché, but "The Children Are the Future". Tonight's appearance was organized so the world to hear young residents of Newtown singing THEIR pray. Everyone involved would have gladly welcomed more young singers (and other choirs) to join in. Sadly, our outreach efforts to the school were directly & aggressively condemned by a single school official on Tuesday, February 5.

My wife is from Fairfield County but I am an outsider to Newtown. I care deeply about what happened. I have three young children of my own ages 2 to 4. I want them to be safe. I want everyone to be safe.

According to recent media fueled by this single school official, the kids who sang SOTR are now viewed as very suspicious to many. Newspapers from Hartford to London have run extremely negative stories about the SOTR project in the past five days as they re-print and re-tell accounts stemming from interviews given to CNN & the Hartford Courant.

The large team of people that planned the (now canceled) segment are good, kind people with the best of intentions. The production was to be no small affair. Prep work needed to start happening last night. We weren't just bringing a satellite truck and a few camera guys. The production team wanted to ensure that everything was done to the highest possible standards. That requires a lot of highly skilled people and a lot of highly technical gear. It all requires a lot of prep-time too. We had many people on dark icy roads last night. They came upon numerous road closures and blocked highways in an attempt to give Newtown a stronger voice....to give you a megaphone.

In my view, the show was not exploiting the kids. If anything, it was exactly the opposite. We could have been exploiting the show. We wanted their huge audience so residents of Newtown could make sure that the world remembered the horrific events of December 14. Policy makers know they don't have to make real change because tragic events fade from the headlines very quickly. This was a real opportunity to make sure that no one forgot.

And what is the status today? I will paraphrase [REDACTED]. Bad press hurts...it really, really hurts. There is a lot of snow.

Like · Follow Post · 5 minutes ago near New York, NY

Google Groups

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Fwd: Tim Hayes, the producer, posted a response on Facebook

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Laura Roche <lracheboe@gmail.com>  
Posted in group: Newtown BOE

Feb 10, 2013 11:58 AM

Here it is

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And what is the status today? I will paraphrase Caren.... Bad press hurts...it really, really hurts. There is a lot of snow.

Like · Follow Post · 5 minutes ago near New York, NY



To: "[lrocheboe@gmail.com](mailto:lrocheboe@gmail.com)" <[lrocheboe@gmail.com](mailto:lrocheboe@gmail.com)>

Hello Ms. Roche,

I'm an AP reporter in Hartford. I've also sent an email to Ms. Leidlein and left a phone message at the Board of Ed offices. I'm hoping that you could please help me with a short story we're writing today about your school board meeting last night. WFSB-TV is reporting the board approved more than 24 new security cameras donated by Advanced Security Technologies. I'm was hoping to confirm that, and to get a little more detail on the district's plans for the cameras.

I can be reached at 860-524-7857.

Thanks so much.

Best,

Sue

<mime-attachment.jpg>

Susan Haigh

Statehouse/Political Writer

The Associated Press

10 Columbus Blvd. 2nd Floor

Hartford, Conn. 06106

(w) 860-524-7857

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**AP**

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(m) 860-416-0468

Twitter: SusanHaighAP