

OPERATION CHALLENGE METCO
Box 76, Wellesley Hills

Our Position

Operation Challenge Metco ("OCM"), was organized by a group of concerned citizens, because it is clear that a majority of Wellesley residents are opposed to sociological experiments conducted by the School Committee in the name of education -- more specifically the busing of non-residents from Boston all the way out to Wellesley, which is supposed to benefit our children, and to raise the quality of Wellesley education.

OCM opposes the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity ("Metco"), a private regional pressure group, advocating Federal spending and control. Metco would use local school systems to alter or correct a non-school-caused matter: housing patterns. Desirable as more heterogeneous housing patterns may be, they clearly have nothing to do with schools. Desirable as helping the poor may be, this is a charitable matter to be handled privately and locally, not with Federal funds and control.

Metco ignores what is possibly the finest high school in America: Boston Latin School. Harvard receives more freshmen from Boston Latin every year than from any other public school in the entire country -- 32 in 1965. Boston Latin is open to any student in Boston. Metco ignores many other solid accomplishments by the Boston Schools in providing good education for all, regardless of economic status, color, or ethnic background.

Sociology and education and psychology are hardly sciences. One can find as many authorities ranged on one side of a question as on another. Metco lays its case basically on the "Kiernan" report. This report draws conclusions without evidence or documentation. OCM urges you to read it carefully and compare it with the Ohrenberger report, a carefully written, factual study.

Any student of modern history knows that totalitarian regimes have education as a prime target. It is only necessary to review the efforts of such regimes in this area to recognize this truth. In this light, prudence dictates that the proper direction for educational programs is toward more local control rather than regional or central systems.

The Operation Challenge Metco Group says that local control must be defended against the threat posed by Metco.

No larger school committee can ever have the unique sensitivity of a local group situated among intelligent, alert citizens as we have in Wellesley. An elected Wellesley School Committee, free of outside control, is the best possible agency to recognize local needs and the fastest to act upon them, at lowest possible cost to the citizen.

Questions and Answers

1. Why does Operation Challenge Metco exist?

- a. To protect our individual, local community
- b. To strengthen local control of education
- c. To further education, not sociology
- d. To increase local participation and interest in School Committee affairs
- e. To provide an outlet for opinion on School Committee affairs by the owners of the schools

2. Is Operation Challenge Metco a secret organization?

No. It's only secret because some Metco proponents have said it is. Many of the early group of concerned citizens were publicized in letters to the Townsman. No one asked for, nor could we afford to buy space for a list of participants in the polling advertisement. The advertisement gave a phone number and address.

Our aims are open. Our goals and tactics are legal and in the great American tradition of free and open democratic expression. We invite the membership and financial support of anyone sympathetic to the cause of continuing local school control.

3. Does the Federal Education Act of 1965 permit a program of transportation of children from Boston to Wellesley? Is busing one of the kinds of "Exemplary Education" the Act is set up to help?

SC (School Committee) Answer: We assume the Federal people know what they are doing.

OCM (Operation Challenge Metco) Answer: There is nothing in the Act or in the Guidelines under Title III which even remotely provides for it. Title III is concerned w ithin School Districts. Although both the Act and the Guidelines mention various kinds of programs which might be undertaken, there is not the slightest mention of busing.

4. The Boston School Committee was informed that the local communities would undertake a three-year program, and according to one member, planning in Boston will be done with this expectation. Is this the expectation of the Wellesley School Committee?

SC Answer: We and the Federal people are planning one year. If the Federal people discontinue the program, we would feel a moral obligation to continue. (Phillips PTA meeting) We Would then go to the Town Meeting for money.

OCM Answer: The Act and Guidelines specifically provide that Federal grants can be made for only one year! Is Wellesley promising to undertake a program without any assurance that there will be money for it? Has Boston had the facts correctly represented to it by Wellesley?

5. Will The Wellesley School Comm. surrender further local control under Metco?

SC Answer: "Don't worry about it. We have no intention of giving up control." (Chairman Gardner)

OCM Answer: a. Newton's Metco application states the "activities....will be administered by or under the supervision of" Newton Public Schools.
b. Metco's announced aim is the formation of a Greater Boston Metropolitan School District¹, which would remove local control and dilute the quality of Wellesley education.

6. How much will the program cost?

SC Answer: The first public announcement: About \$850 per pupil, at "no cost" to the Wellesley taxpayer.

OCM Answer: Metco's present estimate is now \$1344, twice what it costs most other places. "Evaluation" and transportation are \$538 alone, more than what many communities spend in total.

No one is fooled about "no cost"! But OCM would remind the reader of the additional hidden costs of "handling" money via Washington. These hidden costs include personnel, lost productivity (interest), delays, approvals, and unnecessary activities.

In Wellesley, too, despite disclaimers, there will be extra tax costs: depreciation, bond interest, and extra personnel in the High School, not covered in the application to Washington.

- 6a. What is "Evaluation"?

Testing of the students. 29% of their time (\$325 out of \$1131 per pupil) or 40%, (based on \$325 evaluation against \$806 for education) will be taken up with standardized, individual, "sociometric", "attitudinal", and personality tests plus interviews and observation. We hope there will be time for the 3 Rs.

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1. Appendix A. Also reaffirmed by Metco's new Executive Director, Joseph E. Killory (WEEI interview, May 29), "Metco would pave the way for some sort of Metropolitan School System."

7. In view of the above gray or possible illegal areas would the Wellesley School Committee be responsive to an expression of opinion by the voters of Wellesley?

SC Answer: "Too time consuming. Too many more important matters. As elected officials, we consult our conscience in a climate of knowing about the community." Mr. Gardner said his own reason for supporting Metco is one of self-interest, the great benefit to Wellesley High School to have in it some children who aren't white. "It has been quite conclusively proven that segregated education is not good and Wellesley is a segregated town at present. Hopefully some day that might change," he said.

OCM Answer: Not only did the School Committee say they would not be responsive to the expressed will of the people, but also they refused to let a group of 5 High School students working on a history project conduct a poll. Democratic principles are taught in the schools -- but apparently not practiced. Another poll request by the present 9th Grade Class has been referred all the way up the line to the School Committee for "consideration". Is the School Committee afraid of mass rejection by the townspeople? Are the teachers and staffs being bridled in not being able or willing to stand up and express their true opinions?

8. Can Wellesley drop out now?

Certainly. Contrary to Metco propagandists, the plan has not been approved (May 27), and even if it is, the contract will take several weeks more to be signed. Money would not be spent until September 1, 1966. Washington makes this clear.

Even then, Newton, not Wellesley is the contractor. We are simply a participant and just as new participants have been added (Arlington and Braintree) old ones may drop out.

9. What can I do as a private citizen?

SC Answer: Nothing. We are your elected officials.

OCM Answer: A lot! Think about 1976, or 1986 (or 1984!). Make a list of the ways the Federal government limits, taxes, controls or regulates your life. Just directly.

Aren't you capable of doing most of these things yourself, or with your local neighbors?

Talk with your neighbors. Talk to your Town Meeting Members and Selectmen. Write to the School Committee, and to your State Legislators, and to your Representative and Senators in Washington. Sign the "Pro Wellesley" petition. Help Operation Challenge Metco. Call or write today! Send money.

Wellesley's Senators, Representatives, and Town Officials
and where to contact them.

U.S. Senator Leverett Saltonstall (R)	Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C.	
U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D)	Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C.	
U.S. Congressman Jos. W. Martin, Jr. (R)	House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C.	
Gov. Councilor Margaret M. Heckler (R)	30 Colburn Rd., Wellesley Hills	235-6985
State Senator Leslie B. Cutler (R)	1010 South Street, Needham	444-0520
State Representative David H. Locke (R)	8 Grove Street, Wellesley	235-7000
Selectmen: Felix Juliani	6 Sylvester Terrace	235-0446
John O. Rhome	5 Mayo Road	235-4019
Richard L. Wilder	158 Bristol Road	235-6312
School Committee: Clara T. Breck	33 Allen Road	235-3321
Richard L. Gardner	9 Livermore Road	235-6151
Rhodes G. Lockwood	11 Windsor Road	235-7062
David R. Sargent	15 Indian Springs Way	235-4644
Eleanor M. Stimets	371 Weston Road	235-7621

And don't forget your Town Meeting Members!

APPENDIX A:

SUMMARY OF LONG-RANGE METCO
PLANS TOWARD A METROPOLITAN SCHOOL SYSTEM

The Wellesley School Committee voted for a metropolitan system of education when it voted the following on February 7, 1966:

"We are committed to the notion that a metropolitan concept of public education must be developed as it has been and is being developed in other areas of public interest, and we will seek out and encourage any possibilities that support this goal."

This statement is contained in a

"Proposed Plan for Cooperative Program of Education Between Urban and Suburban Schools" Submitted at the Office of Education under the provisions of Title III, Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 by the Newton Public Schools, Newton, Massachusetts.

The above statement is also contained in a memo received from the head of the Metco Committee, Mr. Leon Trilling, entitled, "For Meeting at Boston College, Wednesday, March 10, 1966.

This same memo further expands the plans toward an ultimate goal of a Greater Boston Metropolitan School District.

Why does Metco feel that a metropolitan school system is necessary? For the answer, we turn again to the March 10 Metco memo: "the problem [of education] lies partly in economics, partly in a fragmented metropolitan political structure, partly in reliance on local sources of revenue....".

What are the specific programs planned by Metco to work towards the stated long-range goals? For an answer we may refer to words which are contained in both the March 10 Metco memo and the plan voted by the Wellesley School Committee:

"We have in mind student exchanges, teacher exchanges, special tutorial programs, identification of individual students whose needs might be served better by attendance in another school, cooperative curriculum development projects, work projects and opportunities for social affairs."

Is our system of local government really "fragmented"?

Is "reliance on local sources of revenue" (and control) wrong?

Is the "metropolitan concept of public education" the only answer to education?

Your answers to these questions should determine your support of or opposition to Metco.

APPENDIX B:

SUMMARY OF MASSACHUSETTS BILLS INTRODUCED THIS YEAR TO WEAKEN DEMOCRATIC
LOCAL CONTROL OF SCHOOL SYSTEMS

HOUSE 3086: "RESOLVE PROVIDING FOR AN INVESTIGATION AND STUDY BY A SPECIAL COMMISSION RELATIVE TO THE FEASIBILITY AND DESIRABILITY OF A METROPOLITAN SCHOOL SYSTEM FOR GREATER BOSTON."

"It is obvious, that given the current and projected school population trends, there is no possibility for achieving the ends of the racial imbalance law while confining the geographic means to the City limits of Boston. A metropolitan school district, however, could solve another problem which is causing much greater disadvantage to Boston school children of all races, namely that of fiscal imbalance." [emphasis supplied]

"It has been estimated that an expenditure of \$1,000 a year is necessary to make up for the deficiencies which beset slum children when they start to school."

"Thus, a metropolitan school district would offer the possibility of correcting both the racial imbalance and fiscal imbalance which now plagues Boston and hampers its education efforts."

"Finally a metropolitan school district would allow the suburban communities to play their part in the resolution of a metropolitan problem and it would encourage inter-community cooperation in the metropolitan district. Such cooperation must play an increasingly important role in the region's activities if it is to meet the challenges of the present and future."

STATUS: IN HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

Adversely reported by the Committee of Education, March 22, 1966. Massachusetts House refused to kill the bill and referred it to Ways & Means Committee March 28, 1966

HOUSE 2563: "AN ACT AMENDING THE ACT PROVIDING THREE OPTIONAL PLANS OF CITY GOVERNMENT IN THE CITY OF BOSTON"

This bill provides for an appointed rather than an elected Boston School Committee.

Section 18 "There shall be a school committee consisting of five members, appointed by the mayor...."

STATUS: IN HOUSE MUNICIPAL FINANCE COMMITTEE

SENATE 822: "AN ACT AUTHORIZING A SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF ANOTHER CITY OR TOWN TO PERFORM JOINTLY OR FOR SUCH OTHER CITY OR TOWN CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS INVOLVING THE EXPENDITURE OF FEDERAL FUNDS."

STATUS: SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR MAY 18, 1966 CHAPTER 286

SENATE 837: "AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ATTENDANCE OF CHILDREN IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF CITIES OR TOWNS OTHER THAN THE CITIES OR TOWNS IN WHICH THEY RESIDE."

STATUS: NOT DETERMINED AS THE OFFICE OF THE SENATE CLERK WAS CLOSED ON MAY 27, 1966

The status of the above bills is as of May 27, 1966