

January 26, 1976

Madame President, Mr. Fowler, Board Members and Nutley Citizens,

On June 9, 1975 a letter was written to you, Mr. Fowler, requesting permission for [REDACTED] to remain at the Special Education Center for Trainables until the age of 21. The request was denied. So, this child sat home for a year gradually regressing, after the citizens had invested 15 years of taxes in her training.

On January 19th, 1976, another letter was written to Mr. Fowler and Board Members. The letter reads as follows. (Read letter). In a letter dated January 20th, 1976, Mr. Fowler responded as follows. (Read letter).

After reading the letter I tried to rationalize the thinking of the Board. It was difficult to accept the fact that my child's opportunity to exist mentally was to be terminated in June, 1976. Any normal child is entitled to a public education to the age of 20. Surely, a special education child should have that age limit extended.

A group of concerned parents began to investigate. The Beadleston Act states that at the discretion of the Board, children may remain in a school system until the age of 21 (or over). Mr. James Richardson was called in the State Department of Education and verified that our interpretation of the Beadleston Act was correct. State subsidization could be continued until the age of 21 and beyond at the option of the local board of education. Another call was made to Mr. Canary, the Director of Special Education in Kearny. His response was that they have several trainables beyond the age of 20, one who will soon be 24, and subsidization has continued. Knowing that Nutley repeatedly has one of the finest programs in the State, the question comes to my mind: Why then do they terminate a trainable child's chance for a semblance of a normal life at the age of 20?

We are presently working on a program that we can administer independently, but we need at least this additional year to continue to raise funds and further our planning. All of you in this room probably have children. Are they 20? Over 20? Under 20? What are your plans for them? What are their plans for themselves? College for my child? No. A regular job for my child? No. What are our choices for our children? A program in Newark where there is a possible wait of 3 years for a program which merits are very questionable? Our other choice? Home. I can see my child sit at home and regress. I see 15 years of taxpayers investment in our children go down the drain.

In conclusion, I am asking for the Board to reconsider their decision. On grounds of the Beadleston Act, on grounds of compassion, on grounds of moral obligation, on grounds of 15 years of financial investment. We want room for our children. Are you telling us, as someone was told 1,976 years ago, that there is no room at the inn?

As a parent and taxpayer, I would like to call for a public vote as to how each member voted. *e b / 1 7 5 2*

0 P Y
January 20, 1976

[REDACTED]
Nutley, New Jersey

Dear [REDACTED]:

This is in reference to your letter requesting that your son, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] be allowed to continue in the special education program through their twenty-first birthday.

The Board agreed to be consistent with their present policy as previously adopted:

"The Nutley Board of Education adopts the policy of terminating this special education upon a pupil's reaching his or her twentieth birthday, or not later than the end of the school year in which his or her twentieth birthday occurs."

I will be very happy to discuss this problem and any alternatives that might lead to a solution with all parents concerned at your convenience. Please call my office for an appointment.

Very truly yours,

Glyn Fowler

GF:f

cc: [REDACTED]

January 19th, 1976

Glyn Fowler,
Superintendent of Schools,
Nutley Board of Education
Chestnut Street
Nutley, New Jersey 07110

JAN 19 1976

Dear Mr. Fowler and Board Members:

We, the parents of three Nutley children, who attend the Special Classes, at the Washington Avenue "Centre", find ourselves presented with a serious problem, and find that we need your able assistance.

These children are about to be released from school because they have reached their 20th year by June, 1976.

It is our desire and hope after much thought and consideration that the Board would see fit to approve to keep the children in school through the school year of their 21st birthday.

It is only on the approval of the Board that they may remain in school in Nutley.

The children in question are,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thank you so much for your consideration and hopefully you will approve our request.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

C O P Y

June 24, 1975

[REDACTED]

Nutley, New Jersey

Dear [REDACTED]:

This is in reference to your letter of petition. I have conveyed your feelings to the Board of Education. I am suggesting that members of your committee, Mrs. Doris Popadick and I meet at a future date to discuss your concerns. Please call for a date that is convenient. This can be arranged for an evening if that is more convenient for the members of your committee.

Very truly yours,

Glyn Fowler
Superintendent of Schools

GF:f


Nutley, New Jersey
07110

June 9, 1975

Mr. Glyn Fowler
Superintendent of Schools
Nutley Board of Education
Chestnut Street
Nutley, New Jersey 07110

Dear Mr. Fowler:

We the parents of students residing in Nutley, attending, and who are about to be released from, the Special Education Center, would deeply appreciate the board members considering the possibility of keeping our children until the age of twenty-one (21).

We would also hope the board members would consider and approve an activity center of our own to keep our children here at home. The facilities and program here at the center are one of the best in the state, and it certainly seems feasible to extend these facilities past the age of twenty-one (21).

It would certainly put our minds at ease to know that our board members are doing everything in their power to make these requests fact.

Respectfully yours,
