Dear Caledonia,

Three years ago, my husband and I were preparing to have our second child when we made the decision that our apartment in Oak Creek would be too small for our growing family. So we began our search for a home. We really wanted to stay in Oak Creek for many reasons, but the main one was their school district, from which both my husband and I graduated.

It wasn’t just the education that we valued but also the activities that come with having a quality district, like sports and other extra curricular activities. Being the proud mother of two beautiful children, ages 2 and 5, just like any other parent, I want my children to have the opportunity for the best education and atmosphere possible.

After months of searching in Oak Creek, we still had not come across a home of our liking, so our realtor suggested expanding our search slightly south, into Caledonia. To be honest, one of our main reservations with Caledonia was with the school district. We had heard many people voice their displeasure for the Racine School District. The majority of the feedback that we received was that the Racine School District consisted of great elementary schools but the quality decreased as you progressed into middle and eventually high school.

Now we were faced with the dilemma of purchasing a home within a school district that had mixed reviews. So we further researched the Racine School District and were amazed by all of the poor reviews from former students and parents too. I am a dance instructor at a local studio and was shocked to learn from some students that they had attended elementary school in Racine, only to be home schooled rather than going to the public middle and high school.

We were about to decide against the move until the option of open enrollment in Oak Creek was brought to our attention. For us, it was the logical solution, as we were able to have the home we wanted, while allowing our children to attend the trusted schools we knew and loved. So we agreed to expand our search and as luck would have it, we found the perfect home in the Franksville area of Caledonia.

Last year, we open enrolled our son in Oak Creek only to have him end up on the waiting list, with no promise of when or if he would be accepted. It felt as if we were back to square one. I began to learn that for years Caledonia had been trying to break off to create its own school district. I remember thinking to myself, “this would be perfect,” and even decided against open enrolling my son this year, hoping that Caledonia will have its own school district in the future.

This village is growing by the minute, with more and more young families moving into the area. But will they stay? We want to. Therefore, the time has come for Caledonia to have its own school district in order to provide the educational environment we expect for our children to grow and develop in. We are excited to see future development in Caledonia. Please support this great cause by voting “Yes” with us on April 7th!

Rachel Stikl

Caledonia mother of two