

Good Evening Everyone,

I'd like to share a personal story to illustrate the point I want to make tonight.

Growing up in China, my earliest childhood memories stemmed from the late 1960s, during the height of the Cultural Revolution.

My mother has seven siblings and each of them has at least two kids, so with over a dozen cousins, my parents never have to worry about finding play dates for me.:-)  
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In 1969, when my mother, father, some uncles and aunts were sent from capital Beijing to the country side as part of chairman Mao's "re-education" of the intellectuals, many of my cousins, myself included, were left behind (for a period) to the care of our family matriarch - my maternal grand-mother.

She was soft spoken, loving, kind, and caring all in one! But when you have 14 boys and girls ranging from three to 13 living under the same cramped roof, with various needs and temperaments, patience and niceness alone won't cut it sometimes. So my grandma made many unpopular decisions (in the kids' eyes) on our behalf, from who gets the new cloth during Chinese New Year, who wears the hand-me-downs, who does the dishes and sweep the floors, to who hand-washes the dirty laundry. As a result, we secretively called her the "meanie-granny", a name we only gratefully shared with grandma on her 90th birthday bash.

While the scale between a grandma managing 14 kids in China and the Scarsdale Village Board of Trustees governing over 5,600 households is obviously different, the principle, in my opinion, is the same - making some tough decisions with people's best interests at heart.

As our elected Village Board of Trustees, you hold the mandate and share the responsibility to make financial and civic decisions based on mid and long term visions, and for the interests of every Scarsdalians. It is obvious to me that an expanded and renovated library will serve as the cultural hub, the community center for children and adults for decades to come.

Tradition matters, representative democracy matters, budgetary control matters, the legitimacy of CNC, by extension the Board of Trustees matters.

If you lead with clear foresight and well defined vision, people will follow, and they will come to appreciate your decision, sooner or later.

Thank you,

~ Julie Zhu  
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