Today is the last day of school for Pottstown students. It is also the last day you will see our students in grades K-8 wearing uniforms — solid color tops and bottoms in white, blue or khaki.

Ten years ago, after extensive research, the Pottstown School Board adopted a policy requiring K-8 students to wear uniforms. Samples were pictured on fliers and the district website.

The rationale was to instill pride in our students and our town, to keep kids focused on their studies rather than their clothes, and to reduce disparities between pupils of different incomes.

Prior to the adoption, a survey of more than 800 households showed 70 percent were in favor of the uniforms. The K-8 uniform implementation went smoothly. Nonetheless, after a lot more discussion, the board conducted a second survey of K-8 parents and teachers in 2016. More than 60 percent favored keeping the uniform policy.

But at last month's meeting, even though it wasn't on the agenda, the school board voted unanimously to eliminate uniforms in September. Uniforms gave our students a neat, handsome appearance. Parents had long accepted them. Now they are gone.

Commentary by Thomas Hylton

2008—2018

Next September...

SCHOOL UNIFORMS? .... WE GOT 'EM ON, DUDE!