

Dear Guildhall Community Member,

On October 20, 2015 there will be a Special Meeting of the voters of the town of Guildhall to consider closing the Guildhall Elementary School. There will be an Informational Meeting on October 14, 2015 at which the Guildhall School Board and ECSU Administration will present information to the community and will answer questions.

The school board and administration has been working on this issue for over a year and has presented detailed information at its August and September Board Meetings.

The school board and administration recognize the faculty and staff of the Guildhall school does an extraordinary job of educating students. Guildhall students frequently score proficient or proficient with distinction on state and national assessments and the learning environment of the school is excellent. It is clear the Guildhall Elementary School is an outstanding school.

The population of students attending the Guildhall School is dramatically declining. Between FY15 and FY18 we project a 50% decrease in the student population at the Guildhall Elementary School and do not project a substantial population increase after the FY18 school year. This decrease in population results in a significant increase in cost/pupil spending. A consequence of the increased cost/pupil spending is a sizable projected rise of the residential tax rate.

Operational Projections (Budgets for FY17 and FY18 may vary greatly as there are no firm state figures available for these projections)

FY 2016

| | Open | Closed | Open/Closed No Hold Harmless Students |
|-------------------|-----------|--------|---------------------------------------|
| Overall Budget | \$819,215 | N/A | \$819,215 /NA |
| Equalized Pupils | 36.22 | N/A | 36.22 /NA |
| Act 68 Cost/Pupil | \$12,046 | N/A | \$24,454/NA |
| Residential Rate | \$1.21 | N/A | \$1.61 /NA |

FY 2017 Estimated

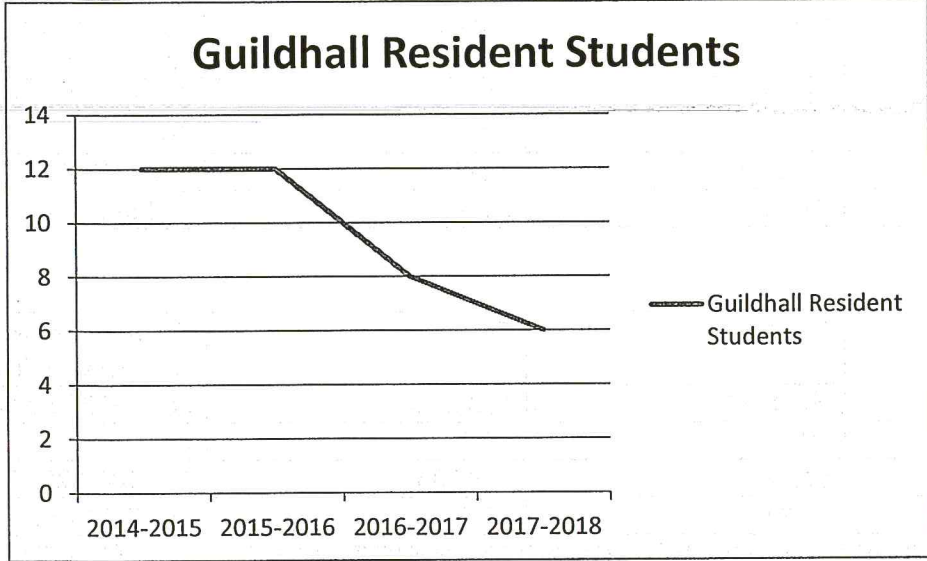
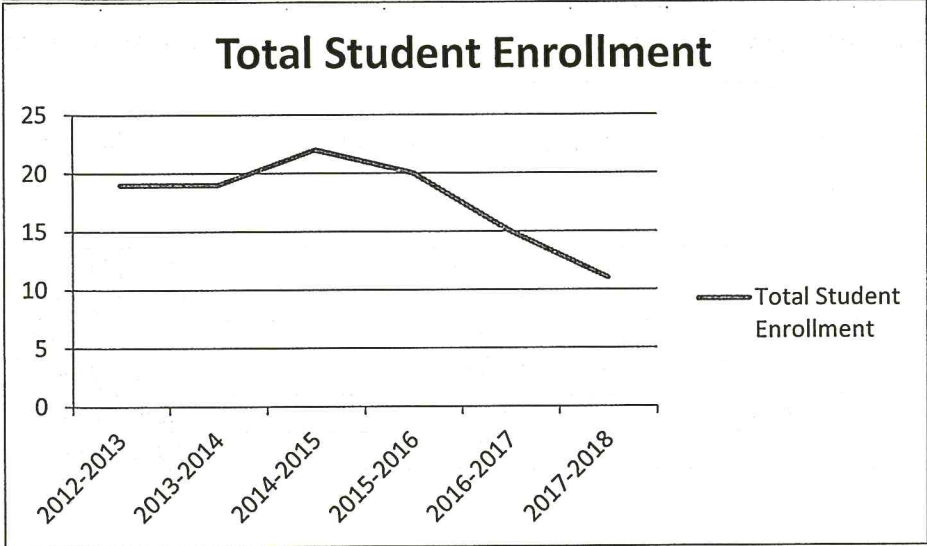
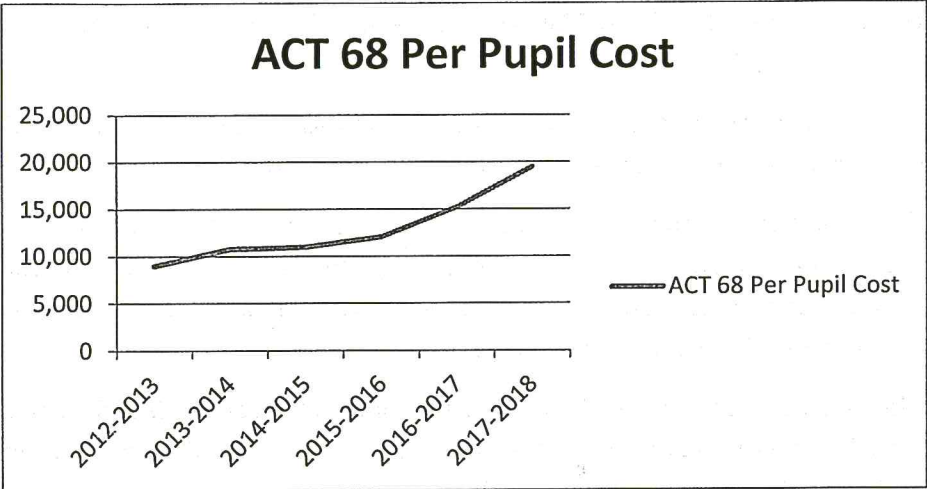
| | Open | Closed | Open/Closed No Hold Harmless Students |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| Overall Budget | \$841,259 | \$593,541 | \$841,259/\$593,541 |
| Equalized Pupils | 34.95 | 34.95 | 30.5/24.5 |
| Act 68 Cost/Pupil | \$15,204 | \$12,785 | \$27,582/\$24,226 |
| Residential Rate | \$1.54 | \$1.30 | \$2.56/\$1.89 |

FY 2018 Estimated

| | Open | Closed | Open/Closed No Hold Harmless Students |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| Overall Budget | \$818,492 | \$538,828 | \$818,492/\$538,828 |
| Equalized Pupils | 30.95 | 30.95 | 24/21 |
| Act 68 Cost/Pupil | \$19,471 | \$13,933 | \$34,104/\$25,658 |
| Residential Rate | \$1.97 | \$1.41 | \$3.05/\$2.43 |

*Hold Harmless Students are a result of the way a school's population is calculated and causes student population numbers to be inflated which causes Guildhall's Act 68 Cost/Pupil figure to be lower. The Harmless Student provision of the funding law goes away in 2018 unless a school district fully implements the provisions of ACT 46.

Cost and Enrollment Information Regarding the Guildhall Elementary School



**WARNING
SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING
GUILDHALL TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The legal voters of the Guildhall Town School District are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Guildhall Town Hall in the Town of Guildhall on Tuesday, October 20, 2015 at seven (7:00) O'clock in the afternoon (P.M.), at which time the community will vote upon the following article of business from the floor:

Article 1: Shall the voters of the Town of Guildhall vote to close the Guildhall Elementary School (grades K-5) and provide for the education of its pupils by paying tuition in accordance of law beginning July1, 2016 per Vermont Statute T.16 § 821(a)(1).

Adopted and approved at a special meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Guildhall Town School District held on September 15, 2015.

Karen Guile, Chairperson

Karen Guile

Marie Fay, Vice-Chair

*Marie Fay
(per telecommunication)*

Christina McGrath, Clerk

Christina McGrath

Received for record this 15TH day of SEPTEMBER, 2015 A.D.

Attest: _____

GBM
George Blakeslee, Town Clerk
Guildhall Town School District

NOTICE TO VOTERS

The VOTER CHECKLIST for the October 20, 2015 Special School District Meeting will be posted on September 17, 2015. If your name is not on the VOTER CHECKLIST, then you must register to vote.

REGISTER TO VOTE no later than 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 14, 2015 at the Town Clerk's Office. The Town Clerk's Office is regularly open on Tuesday's from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., and Thursday's from 12:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. It will also be open from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 14, 2015.

Voter qualification and registration relative to said meeting shall be as provided in Chapters 43, 51, and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.