

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

