

Whitingham Selectboard Office

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In preparation for Town Meeting 2017

To the Taxpayers of the Town of Whitingham:

It is time to take another stand against the State of Vermont in the way education is funded.

The state of Vermont legislature has enacted new legislation to encourage small local schools to merge with other towns to create larger districts. This new legislation is called "Act 46". The State forecasted that mergers would save tax dollars and enhance educational opportunities.

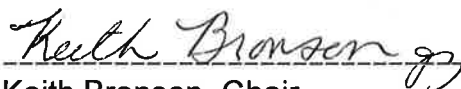
It's not working for us!

If the Twin Valley school budget were to be level funded (but calculated with the proper Special Education costs) as recommended by the Governor, the tax rate would be \$2.3449 per \$100, that's an increase of \$.5879 over last year's tax rate. The School Board was able to slash approximately \$750,000 from the proposed budget which results in an increase of \$.41 per \$100 of assessed value. What does that mean to you as a taxpayer? If your home is valued at \$100,000 your taxes would go up by \$410 per year; \$150,000 goes up \$615; \$200,000 goes up \$820; etc.

As a result of the way per pupil spending is calculated, Whitingham school is in the "penalty box." In order to get out of the penalty box, through the convoluted education funding method that is based on "equalized pupils" and common level of appraisal, the School Board would be forced to cut an additional \$750,000 from the school budget! A cut of that magnitude would be devastating to our students.

We recommend that you VOTE NO on the school budget. Our recommendation is not to reflect poorly on the School Board and Supervisory Union as we appreciate all the hard work they have done to present a reasonable budget. A "no" vote would send a **CLEAR MESSAGE** to our legislators that we have had enough and are unable to financially support the projected increases. It is time for the state of Vermont to realize the excessive tax burden created by education funding as it currently exists.

The Whitingham Selectboard



Keith Bronson, Chair



Allan Twitchell, Vice Chair



Greg Brown



Karl Twitchell



Robin Kingsley