



TOWN OF COLCHESTER
JOINT RESOLUTION FOR SUSTAINABLE
EDUCATION FUNDING REFORM IN VERMONT

WHEREAS,

- Education Funding is a statewide priority and needs to be addressed at the State level
- In the past 10 years, the Vermont student population has declined by 10,618 (or 10%)
- In the past 10 years, Vermont education spending has increased by \$300 million (or 33%)
- In the past 10 years, Vermont per student spending has increased by \$6,537 (or 60%)
- In the past 10 years, reliance on education property taxes has increased by 11%
- In the past 10 years, reliance on state share of education funding has decreased by 18%
- Nearly 70% of Education spending is funded by property taxes; and,

WHEREAS, Vermont has reached its maximum capacity to support education funding through the Statewide Education property tax; and


Whereas, Vermont cannot ignore the current trends and the limitations of our property tax base. Without responsible funding system reforms, Vermont schools will be forced to undergo arbitrary and detrimental budget cuts that will affect the quality of education in Vermont. Continued reliance on the education property tax also has a material impact on local government's ability to provide vital services (police, fire, roads etc.) to residents; and

WHEREAS, Vermont may be able to achieve a sustainable Education future by:

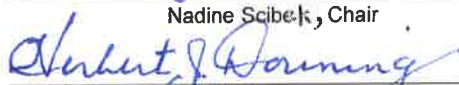
- Re-examining how education is paid for/funded in Vermont
- Creating a more diverse education funding system, sharing the costs between all our tax resources
- Reducing the costs associated with providing education without damaging the education system to reduce the burden on taxpayers
- Simplifying the education funding system so it can be understood by the average taxpayer
- Examining more efficient governance and service delivery
- Examining the impact of unfunded state mandates
- Evaluating the cost shift in social service delivery to the education fund
- Considering changes to the income sensitivity formula to encourage more stakeholder participation / contribution and more sustainable funding levels.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED on this 9th day of December 2014 that the Selectboard of Colchester, Vermont and School Board of Colchester, Vermont request the Vermont Legislature to take action to seek out the necessary reforms to the education funding system.

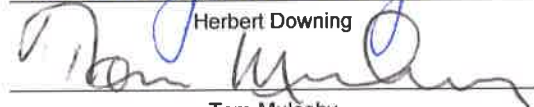
COLCHESTER SELECTBOARD



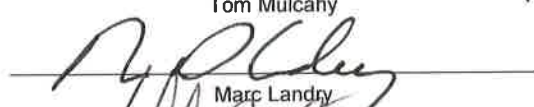
Nadine Scibek, Chair



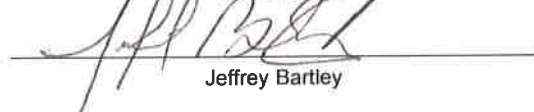
Herbert Downing



Tom Mulcahy




Marc Landry

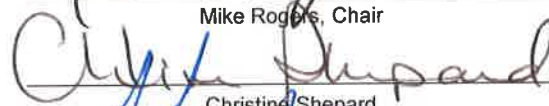


Jeffrey Bartley


COLCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD




Mike Rogers, Chair




Christine Shepard



Lincoln White



Lindsey Cox



Craig Kiery