

# ST. GEORGE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS ANNUAL REPORT 2017

March 2017

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Nelson Mandela

Dear Citizens of St. George:

As we reflect on the past school year and embark upon on the next, we would like to take a moment to acknowledge the teachers and staff who educate our children. Each and every day, their hard work and dedication directly inspire our students’ lives and, as a result, we all benefit from the possibility of a brighter future.

Your school board continues to work hard to ensure that we have the best educational resources available to our children. While St. George students were busy with the day to day of academics in action, 2015-2016 brought dynamic change to the structure of St. George School Board and the Chittenden South Supervisory Union. In June 2016, St. George voters overwhelming voted in support of a new consolidated school district. For the first time in recent history, St. George students will be recognized members of a preK-12 school system. In addition, St. George benefits from a full voting role within the new Champlain Valley School District (CVSD.) The combined resources of the new district will strengthen the programs and education services offered to our students.

What does this mean for the St. George School Board?

For this year, 2016-2017, the St. George School Board has been working alongside of the new CVSD Board. (Kelly Bowen remains Chair on the St. George School Board and Director on the Chittenden South Supervisory Board, in addition to her new role as Director on the Champlain Valley School District.)

St. George School Board remains in effect until the year-end 2017 with the completion of the 2016-2017 financial audit.

The CVSD Board, which was sworn in by the Vermont Secretary of Education in September 2017, has been tasked with the development of the combined district’s budget for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year. The CVSD Board comes online as a fully functioning board in July 2017 replacing individual town boards, the CVU Board, and the Chittenden South Supervisory Union Board.

As you will notice on this year’s Town Meeting Day, St. George voters will be asked to approve, by ballot vote, the proposed CVSD budget for the 2017-2018 school year. Each of the five towns in the district (Charlotte, Hinesburg, Shelburne, Williston & St. George) will vote. Ballots will be collected, comingled, and counted at CVU. Collectively, the combined district must approve the budget.

How has consolidation under Act 46 benefited the St. George taxpayers?

Year after year, I have come before you in collective frustration to explain the rising costs of education, and our inability to effect change in our growing cost per pupil. With your vote for consolidation, we have made an important step to put St. George on par with our surrounding communities.

		<b>FY 2014</b>	<b>FY2015</b>	<b>FY2016</b>	<b>FY2017</b>	<b>FY 2018</b>
Number of Students	of	112.51	115.81	116.56	125.03	3922
Spending Per Equalized Pupil		\$14,797.30	\$16,095.03	\$16,493.86	\$16,570.29	\$15,409.41
Homestead Rate Assessed		\$1.5221	\$1.7146	\$1.7441	\$1.7518	\$1.4915

As you will see in the details of the CVSD budget materials, our school district remains in strong shape. The 2017-2018 recommended budget is \$75,144,759. It is estimated that this will result in education spending per pupil of \$15,409.41 and reflects approximately a 16.2% DECREASE, in St. George taxes over the previous year. This year's proposed budget numbers and the tax savings to St. George are a direct benefit of the Act 46 district merger.

This tax decrease is certainly a cause for celebration, but the tax rate and the consolidation must be a call to action for St. George voters. Education spending continues to rise. More than ever, voices are needed in the process to maintain the standards and quality of service that we expect for our children. There are opportunities for people to get involved in the management and direction of the CVSD Board and the budget process.

St. George taxpayers must become a vocal and visible part of our new district. The fiscal and educational responsibility of our students should never rest on the willingness of one volunteer representative.

We all benefit from an educated community. I appreciate the opportunity to work on behalf of our students, families, and citizens.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Kelly A. Bowen, Chair  
Eric Hunter, Director  
Carol Blakely, Director*

**TRANSPORTATION REIMBURSEMENT REQUESTS**

If you are a citizen living in the Town of St. George that has a child attending any elementary or secondary school that does not provide transportation, St. George will reimburse you an approved amount for the transportation of the child to school during the academic year.

**FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR**

**SEND A *WRITTEN* REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST**

**NO LATER THAN MAY 22**

TO: Mr. Bob Mason, CSSU  
5420 Shelburne Road, Suite 300  
Shelburne, VT 05482

(Requests received after May 22, 2017 cannot be paid)