

1 Sec. 1. SCHOOL CLOSURE

2 (a) Beginning in fiscal year 20XX, the decision to repurpose a school
3 building, close a school building, or cease using a school building to provide
4 direct education in at least one grade, prekindergarten through grade 12, shall
5 be made according to the following process:

6 (1) The school board shall form a steering committee to study the
7 advisability of closing or repurposing the school building in question. The
8 steering committee membership may include school board members. The
9 steering committee is a public body pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 310(6) and is
10 subject to the requirements of 1 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 2.

11 (2) The school board shall include discussion of the advisability of
12 closing or repurposing the school building in question on not fewer than three
13 school board meeting agendas. The school board shall seek meaningful input
14 from the residents who would be most affected by the potential closure or
15 repurposing by holding not fewer than one school board meeting where school
16 closure or repurposing is discussed in:

17 (A) the town or city where the school is physically located; and

18 (B) the town or towns or city or cities whose resident students attend
19 the school.

20 (3) The steering committee shall make a recommendation to the school
21 board regarding the advisability of closing or repurposing the school.

1 (4a) Within 60 days after receipt of the steering committee’s
2 recommendation, the school board shall hold a nonbinding advisory vote to
3 reflect public sentiment regarding the closure of repurposing of the school in:

4 (A) the town or city where the school is physically located; and
5 (B) the town or towns or city or cities whose resident students attend
6 the school.

7 (4b) Once the steering committee has issued its recommendation, the
8 school board shall conduct a public input survey to reflect public sentiment
9 regarding the closure of repurposing of the school in:

10 (A) the town or city where the school is physically located; and
11 (B) the town or towns or city or cities whose resident students attend
12 the school.

13 (5) Within 90 days of the results of the nonbinding advisory vote/public
14 input survey conducted pursuant to subdivision 4, and not less than 180 days
15 prior to the proposed date to close or repurpose the school, the voters of the
16 school district shall vote whether to close or repurpose the applicable school.
17 The question shall be determined by Australian ballot and shall proceed
18 pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 737 (warnings of unified union school district
19 meetings) and 739-741 (vote by Australian ballot). The ballots shall be
20 commingled.

1 (6) Closure or repurposing of the applicable school shall occur if the
2 question is approved by a majority vote of the school district voters.

3 (b) The provisions of this section shall supersede any educational charter
4 provision or school district articles of agreement to the contrary.