

Nicole and Merton Gollaher  
10 Pepperbush Lane  
Guilford, CT 06437  
203-453-3452

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Editor  
Shore Line Times  
66 High Street  
P.O. Box 349  
Guilford, CT 06437

*Re: Two New Schools for Guilford*

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Board of Education has spent years evaluating Guilford's school facilities, and the Community Task Force on School Facilities rated Guilford High School and Adams Middle School "marginal" or "poor" in 21 of the 23 categories evaluated. We thought this couldn't be right, so we attended a number of presentations by the Task Force and meetings of the BOE and other town boards. As a result of these meetings, discussions with friends and neighbors, and soul searching, it is our opinion that Guilford needs both a new high school and a new middle school.

We strongly believe that it is time for Guilford to do the right thing for its children. One of our society's fundamental responsibilities is to properly educate and care for its children. Included in that mission is to provide school facilities that are both fully conducive to learning and healthy. The work by the Task Force demonstrates that neither GHS nor Adams achieves these goals.

Some argue that "books not bricks" should be the focus of our educational efforts, but this approach recognizes only half the educational equation. "Books" are critical to the educational process; so too are "bricks." Studies that show that safe, clean and healthy facilities, designed for age-appropriate learning, markedly improve the educational experience and long-term success of our children. (Links to these studies and other interesting information are available at [www.guilfordpact.org](http://www.guilfordpact.org).)

For many years, Guilford has spent much less on its school facilities than comparable towns in Connecticut, and, as a result, Guilford residents have benefited by lower relative property tax rates. While it's difficult to accept tax increases, investing in our town's educational system is critical at this juncture. Guilford is one of the more affluent towns in the state, yet certain of the town's educational facilities are in a critical state. If we as voters and taxpayers don't act to dramatically improve fundamentally flawed facilities, we will severely compromise the future of our school system. Sure, lost teachers, private

school, migration to other towns and lower property values won't be the end of Guilford, but these certainly don't reflect what Guilford can be, and should be.

It is our responsibility as a community to do the right thing for our children. We encourage everyone to offer Guilford's children the school facilities, and the education, they deserve. It's good for Guilford. Please support two new schools.

Sincerely,

/s/\_\_\_\_\_

Nicole Gollaher

/s/\_\_\_\_\_

Mert Gollaher