

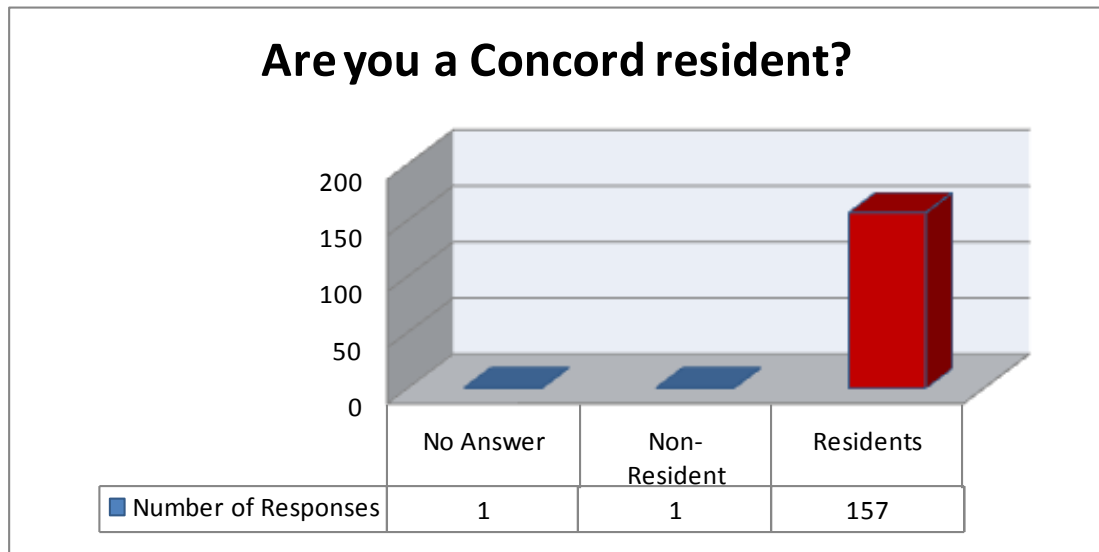


# Concord School Board Community Survey

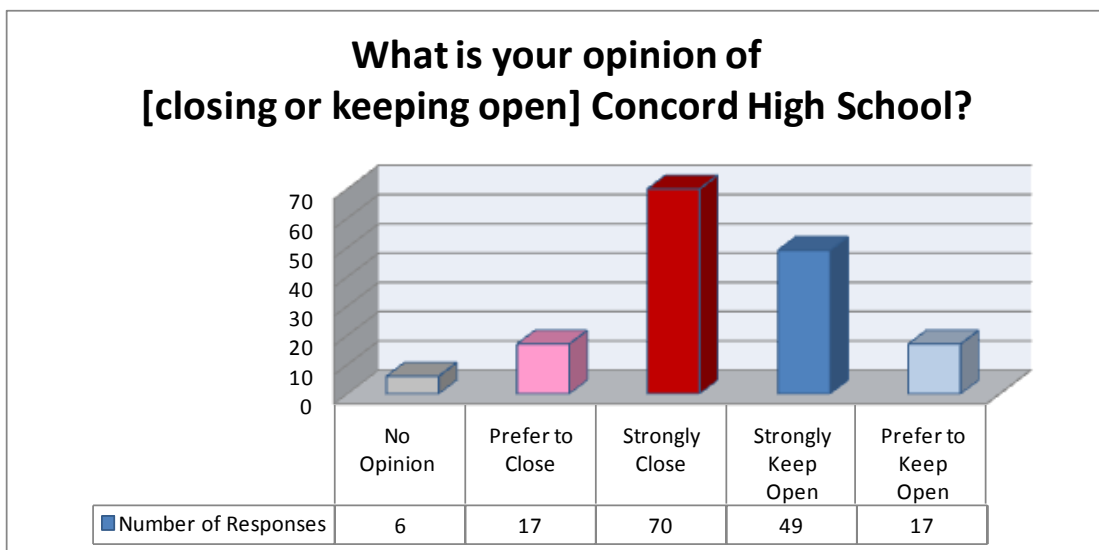
Collected November 2011

In an effort to better understand the opinions of Concord VT residents, the Concord School Board mailed a survey to all tax payers in the fall of 2011. 159 responses were received and the responses were reviewed and analyzed with input from both a community and board member. To follow is an overview of the survey questions and tabulated responses.

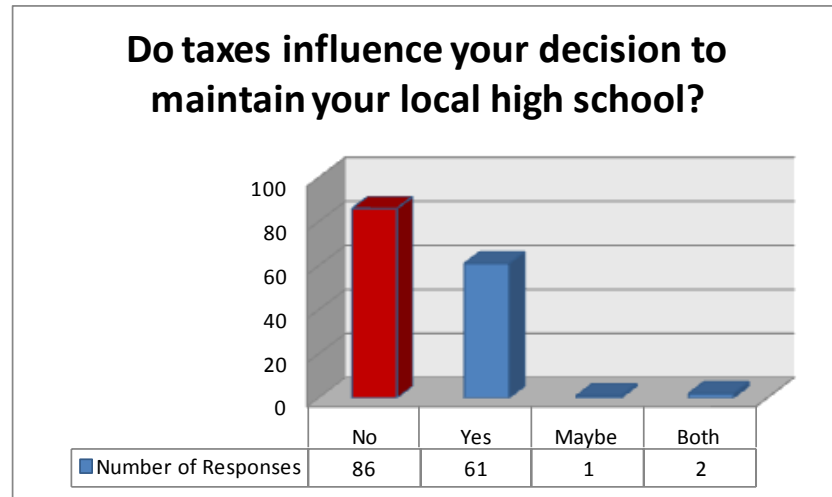
## 1. Are you a resident of the town of Concord?



## 2. Please check the answer that best describes your opinion about Concord High School.



### 3. Do taxes influence your decision to maintain your local high school?



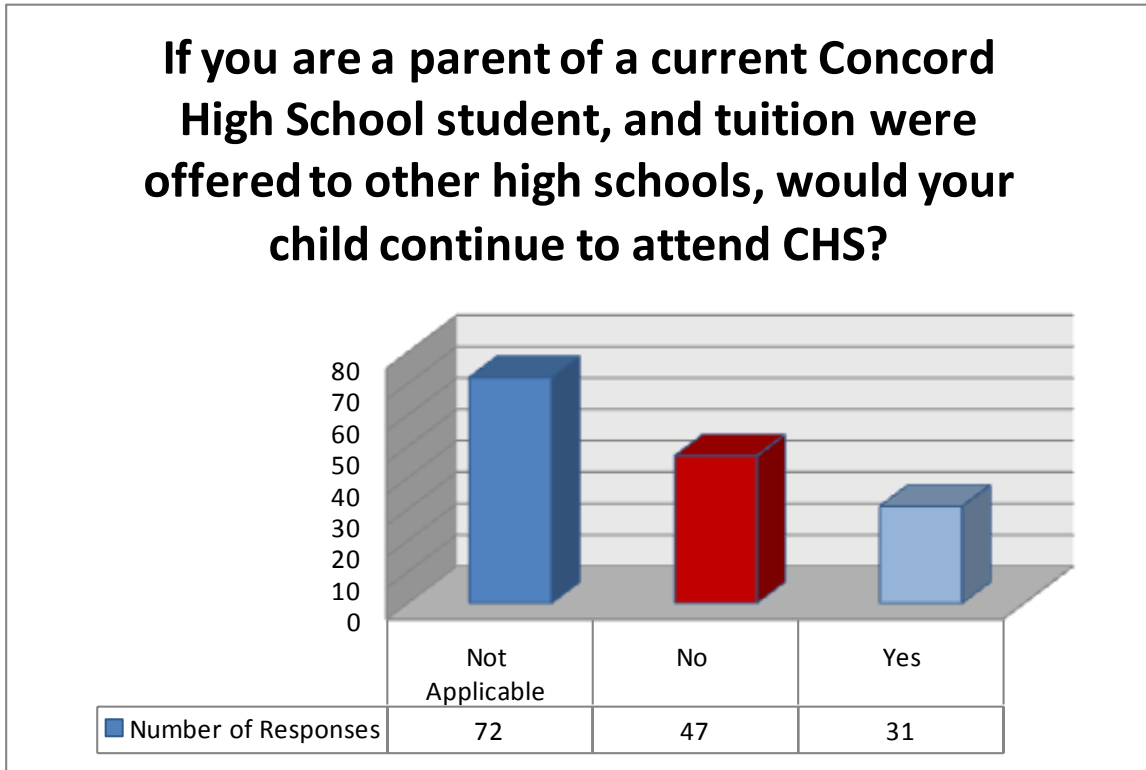
#### COMMENTS QUESTION #3 – Relating to KEEPING CONCORD HIGH SCHOOL OPEN and/or Tax Sensitivity:

- *Money and local control of what goes on at the school.*
- *Can't afford to tuition out and keep HS open.*
- *Worth the taxes to keep small school.*
- *Yes and no: Right now taxes are high but I would rather my kids be close and have the benefits of the smaller school.*
- *If CHS closes I will do everything possible to get my child into another small HS where I believe he would get the best education possible.*
- *If we tuition out we lose control over the costs.*
- *Keep kids local.*
- *Local control even if more expensive.*
- *Living on low income with disabled family member makes it hard to pay higher taxes to support other people's children.*
- *Not solely. I believe there will be extra costs we can't control if we tuition out. Plus maintaining current school for K-8 - I feel a small school has a lot to offer and students will excel if they want to.*
- *Perhaps - if the difference was substantial.*
- *Ppl taking pay cuts, so should teachers to save the school - PPI vote to keep open to keep taxes down - Our taxes are too high! Most residents are old, disabled or underpaid.*
- *School choice would be higher taxes in future years.*
- *Taxes make all decisions.*
- *Wages are not rising, but taxes are.*
- *Taxes would be more if HS closed.*
- *Tax payers are at the end of their ability to pay.*
- *Taxes are fine.*
- *HS has outstanding number of students who moved on to a better education.*
- *I am on a fixed income so taxes to maintain the school are very important.*

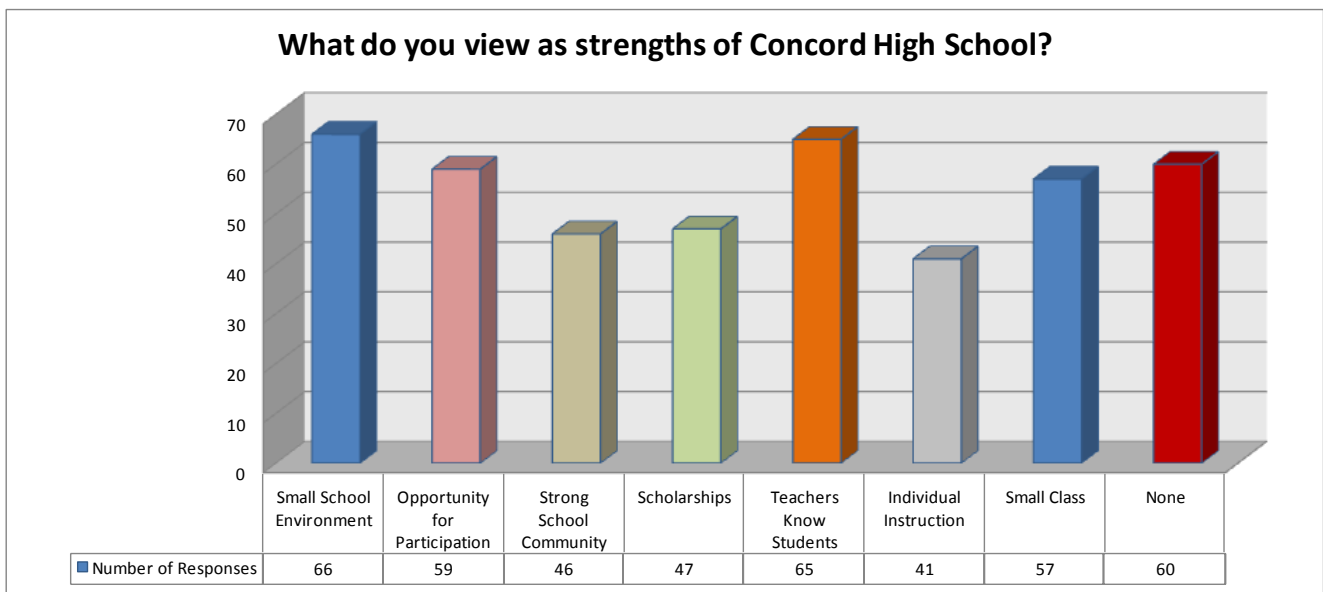
### COMMENTS QUESTION #3 – Relating to CLOSING CONCORD HIGH SCHOOL and/or Tax Sensitivity:

- *It still costs, school or no school.*
- *I want what's best for my children - need more course offerings.*
- *May change but won't influence my decision to close*
- *More availability for a better education.*
- *My concern is that my kids aren't getting what they deserve. They should have more.*
- *Not cost effective to maintain HS for such a small enrollment.*
- *Not the main reason.*
- *We would save a lot by eliminating HS teacher salaries.*
- *Paying taxes to improve education is not a problem.*
- *People would move in and build if HS closed. CHS can't compete with area schools.*
- *Prefer to spend \$ to send kids to schools with more to offer.*
- *Property taxes are ridiculous given low # of students.*
- *Non residential students pay less than Concord tax payers.*
- *Rather pay more & get more.*
- *Difference is minimal - Same cost to keep open as to tuition out.*
- *School not so good.*
- *School sucks and is not good.*
- *Sick of cuts/loss of school programs/Tuition #s presented before last town mtg were wrong.*
- *Small graduating class isn't cost effective to keep school open.*
- *Somewhat: Cost per pupil is higher than other schools.*
- *Important that public be told actual costs unlike before last vot.*
- *Staff vs student count.*
- *Few electives offered.*
- *Necessary courses offered off-campus - what are staff doing during this time?*
- *Very costly.*
- *State should look in.*
- *Taxes are not an influence unless tax \$ is being spent unwisely which I think it is by trying to keep the school open.*
- *Taxes are out of control.*
- *Such a small tax base cannot support a HS for under 50 students.*
- *Town can't afford to support a HS with so few students - budget too high for what school has to offer.*
- *Town's median income can't support HS.*
- *Want best education for kids. - Decreased staff & electives cannot offer this.*
- *Not enough kids for sports, not fair for ones who want to participate*
- *Want the most value for my tax dollars. - we can't afford to keep CHS open - we need school choice.*
- *We owe students best education which means giving them chance for expanded academics, faculty, friendships, etc.*
- *Willing to pay higher taxes if quality of education was worth it and if students could attend STJA or LI.*
- *Willing to pay taxes if they are contributing towards a good education - currently they are not.*
- *Can't offer advanced services at CHS w/out sending kids to STJA or satellite to the school.- close the HS!*
- *Maybe our property would be worth more not less- education is more important than tax worries.*
- *Everyone in America is taking pay cuts. Seems like teachers/schools have open checkbook.*
- *I do not pay town or state school tax.*
- *I don't put a \$ value on good education.*

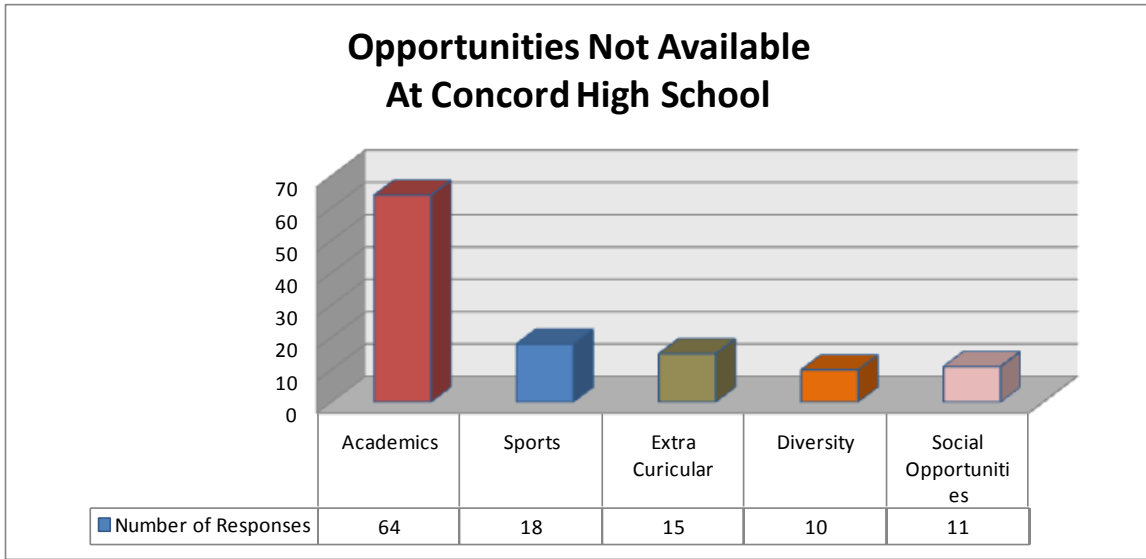
4. If you are a parent of a current Concord student, and tuition were offered to other high schools, would your child continue to attend Concord?



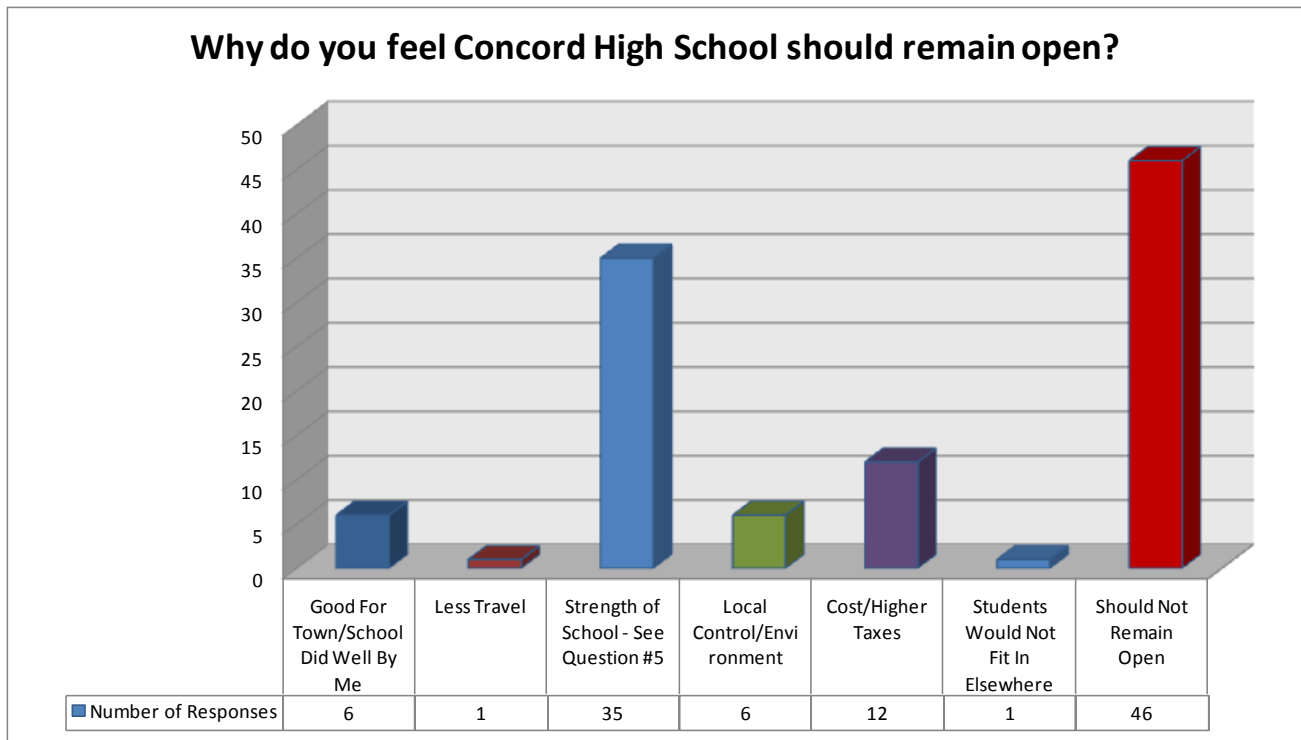
5. What do you view as strengths of Concord High School? (Multiple answers selected by respondents.)



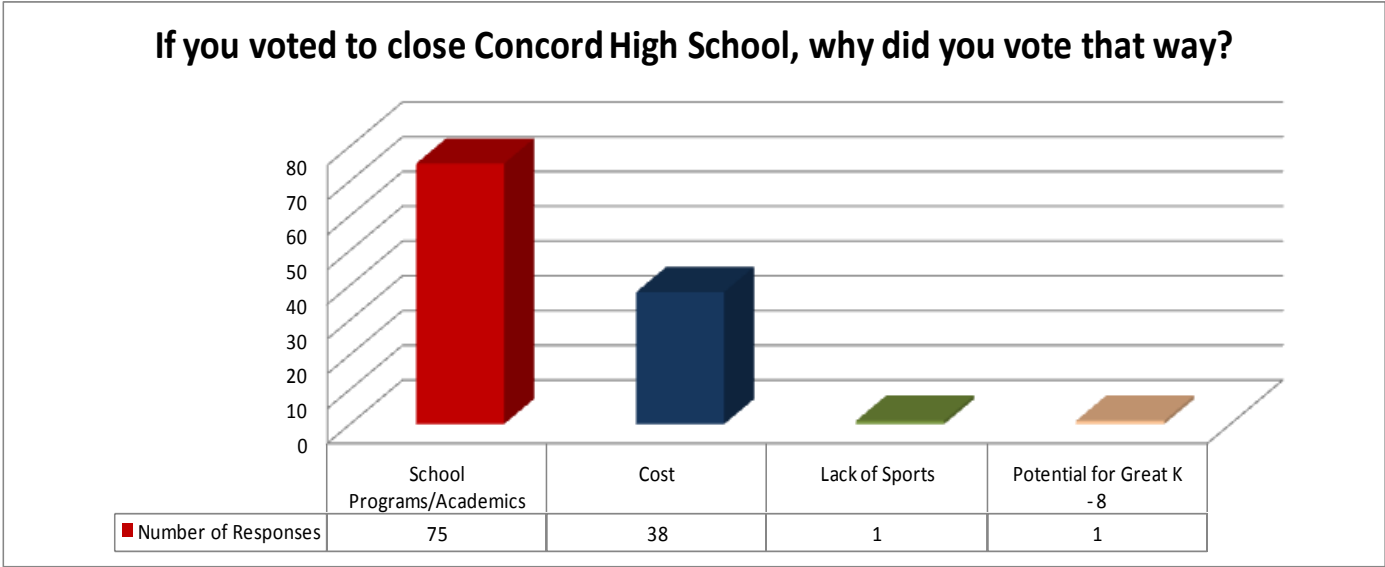
**6. What opportunities are not available at the Concord High School, that you feel students need?**



**7. Why do you feel that the Concord High School should remain open?**



**8. If you voted to close the High School, why did you vote that way?**



*Thank you to all participants for your valuable input and feedback.*

