

**JOINT MEETING OF THE WHRSD SCHOOL COMMITTEE, WHITMAN AND
HANSON BOARDS OF SELECTMEN AND FINANCE COMMITTEES
MINUTES OF MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2023**

Superintendent Szymaniak opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Superintendent Szymaniak announced that the meeting is being recorded and televised.

Superintendent Szymaniak provided all in attendance with a preliminary FY24 budget presentation and gave a brief summary of the goals of the joint meeting and the School Committee's focus areas for 2023-2024, reporting which have financial impact, and which do not have financial impact. Also discussed were FY24 budget proposal goals, enrollment trends, FY24 budget assumptions, FY15-FY24 WHRSD final budgets, FY24 budget additional work, FY24 budget timeline, FY24 non-mandated busing calculations, and FY24 assessments.

Kathleen Ottina, Vice Chair, Town of Whitman Finance Committee stated that there are four major increases to the budget and asked for clarification. This information was supplied by WHRSD Director of Business and Finance John Stanbrook.

Whitman Board of Selectmen member Shawn Kain expressed his dissatisfaction with the budget procedure and recommended in the future a better practice be instituted to begin with revenue and expenditure forecasts, a meeting to discuss such and then building a budget to eliminate tension in the community. Superintendent Szymaniak stated that he still has not seen a budget forecast from both communities and noted a reminder that this budget is preliminary and will change, but stated that he believes targeting a 3% increase is fair.

Whitman Board of Selectmen Chairman Randy LaMattina reminded Superintendent Szymaniak that the Town of Whitman did in fact provide a revenue estimate to the members of the School Committee; and that he believes the numbers in the proposed budget exceed the amount that the Town takes in. Chairman LaMattina further inquired as to how many positions were created last year with one-time funds. Superintendent Szymaniak did not have this information available but will furnish it in February.

Kathleen Ottina interjected that this is a preliminary meeting, with more discussions to be had and reminded all that the group must do what is best for the taxpayers.

Whitman Board of Selectmen member Justin Evans thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and stated that a lot of progress has been made.

At 7:30p.m. Superintendent Szymaniak thanked the attendees, offered a Q&A, to which there were no questions asked and stated that he would be willing to attend future meetings of either Town.

Justin R. Evans, Clerk