

Reducing the number of sections to 5 results in:

Grade 6 $101/5 = 20.2$ average class size

Grade 8 $110/5 = 22$ average class size

Compared to the projected class sizes in the comparable grades in the Whitman Middle School:

Grade 6 $170/8 = 21.25$

Grade 8 $179/8 = 22.3$

The Hanson Middle School average class sizes are still smaller. Using the \$71,000 average teacher salary, that's another **\$142,000** in savings.

If these are added to the suggested budget cuts and use of E/D and CB discussed at the March 13, 2024, School Committee meeting of \$910,500 it totals **\$1,282,500** in combined savings to the towns of Hanson and Whitman.

Taking this approach will show a good faith effort to help bridge the FY25 budget deficits that both Whitman and Hanson are grappling with. I continue to oppose a "School override" that has been promoted by several Whitman officials and citizens. What concerns me is that failure to significantly reduce the FY25 school budget before voting to certify the assessments to the two Towns could result in the school department being excluded from future efforts by the Select Board/Board of Selectmen and Finance Committees to use Free Cash, Stabilization Accounts, and other revenue sources to balance the Towns' FY25 budgets.

Respectfully,
Kathleen A. Ottina ■

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