

I am contacting you both to see if I could obtain a copy of the FY25 WHRSD budget ahead of the budget hearing next Wednesday. I see on the posted agenda for Wednesday February 7 that you are planning to open and close the budget hearing at that meeting.

According to MGL Ch71 sec 38, a copy of the budget shall be made available to the public not less than 48-hours prior to the budget hearing. Based on the one-page budget document presented at the January 10, 2024 School Committee meeting, the FY25 General Fund Budget may range between a 2% to 5% increase over FY24.

■ I believe it is unreasonable to expect members of the public to digest and comment on a \$60 million-plus budget if the information is not made available prior to the scheduled budget hearing.

Please let me know where and when I can access the budget documents.

Thank you.

Kathleen A Ottina

Whitman Finance Committee vice chair and liaison to the WHRSD

Section 38N: Proposed annual budgets; public hearings required; quorum

Section 38N. The school committee of each city, town or regional school district shall hold a public hearing on its proposed annual budget not less than seven days after publication of a notice thereof in a newspaper having general circulation in such city, town or district. Prior to such public hearing said committee shall make available to the public at least one copy of said proposed budget for a time period of not less than forty-eight hours either at the office of the superintendent of schools or at a place so designated by said committee. At the time and place so advertised or at any time or place to which such hearing may from time to time be adjourned all interested persons shall be given an opportunity to be heard for or against the whole or any part of the proposed budget. Such hearing shall be conducted by a quorum of the school committee. For the purposes of this section a quorum shall consist of a majority of the members of said school committee.

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