From: "Hillary Kniffen <hillary.kniffen@whrsd.org>" <hillary.kniffen@whrsd.org>
To: Ottina.Kathleen
Bcc: hillary.kniffen@whrsd.org
Date: 2024-06-06 19:19
Subject: Re: FY25 budget

Hi Kathy,

Thank you so much for this information, and your words last night. I have faith that we can make this budget pass, without cutting staff to any town departments.

Thanks so much.

Hillary

On Thu, Jun 6, 2024 at 8:22 AM Ottina.Kathleen <KOttina@whitman-ma.gov> wrote:

> Good morning Hillary,
>
> I'm sorry I could not stay until the end of last night's School Committee meeting to speak with you. I am attaching a screenshot of the Hanson Finance Committee's page that lists the fund balances as of 6-5-2024. Between the WHRSD Capital Stabilization Fund of $213,400 - which I believe can be used towards the debt assessment of $476,180 that was fully funded on May 6 using Free Cash - and the Free Cash balance of $627,029, Hanson has $840,029 to pay the FY25 assessment balance of $372,140.
>
> The Whitman Town Administrator and Select Board were not happy with the Whitman Finance Committee's successful effort to fully fund the School operating assessment, but Town Meeting was overwhelmingly in favor of avoiding cuts to the schools and another override. We passed two debt exclusions last year and, like Hanson, we are facing the inevitable South Shore Vo-Tech debt exclusion next year. As I said last night, the School Committee cut its original FY25 request by $910,500 - the Towns did nothing to compromise. Both Select Boards seem determined to hold the WHRSD to a 5% operating assessment increase. No efforts to restrict any of the vocational school increases, just WHRSD.
>
> Jeff did a good job last night addressing the "rumors" of 31 people and other disinformation that undermines the School budget.
>
> Good luck with your Town Meeting June 17. Hopefully your Finance Committee and Select Board realize fully funding the FY25 School Assessment is the responsible thing to do. ■
>
> Kathleen Ottina

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