

Dear Whitman-Hanson Families and Staff:

As a result of the recent recession, slow economic recovery, the loss of federal “stimulus” funding, and lastly a three year decline in state and federal revenues that fund the school district budgets the Administrative Team and the School Committee have faced many challenges to balance the budget by reducing costs without negatively impacting the high quality of education our children deserve.

A major cost in our budget is with School Transportation. Transportation was originally projected to cost the District approximately 1.5 million dollars for next year. By adjusting the starting and ending times of the school day for the 2011-2012 school year, we have been able to reduce costs by approximately \$230,000 to the District, and savings of approximately \$73,000 to the local town budgets.

<b>Whitman-Hanson 2011-2012 School Times</b>		
<b>School</b>	<b>Start Time</b>	<b>End Time</b>
Whitman-Hanson Regional High School	7:05am	1:35pm
Hanson & Whitman Middle Schools	7:40am	2:10pm
Indian Head and Maquan Elementary, Hanson	9:05am	3:05pm
Conley Elementary School, Whitman	8:40am	2:40pm
Duval Elementary School, Whitman	9:15am	3:15pm

We all understand that this is not an ideal situation, and during next year will closely monitor how this change impacts education, however, this adjustment saves teachers' positions.

Thank you all for your patience and understanding during these difficult financial times.