

WHITMAN-HANSON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes of February 1, 2017
Held at the Whitman-Hanson Regional School High School

Meeting convened: 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned: 9:54 p.m.

Members present: Robert Hayes, Frederick Small, Daniel Cullity, Robert Trotta, Christopher Howard, Michael Jones, Alexandria Taylor, and Steven Bois

Members absent: Robert O'Brien, Jr., Kevin Lynam

Administrators present: Dr. Ruth Gilbert-Whitner, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Patrick Dillon, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Ellen Stockdale, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Staff Development
Dr. John Queally, Administrator for Special Education
Christine Suckow, Director of Business Services
Chad Peters, Director of Technology Services

Chair Hayes brought the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and announced the meeting was being recorded and broadcast live. The Chair also identified elected officials from each town and state representatives in attendance. Chair Hayes announced the next School Committee meeting will take place on February 15 at 6:45 p.m. and will include further discussion about the FY2018 budget.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

January 11, 2017 School Committee meeting minutes

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Cullity seconded; voted to approve the January 11, 2017 School Committee meeting, as presented. The motion passed 7-0-1. Mr. Howard abstained.

OLD BUSINESS

MARS - Regional Agreement

Chair Hayes reported that Dr. Whitner and Christine Suckow met with Assistant Director of the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools (MARS), Stephen Hemman, and two other representatives from MARS for a preliminary discussion on amending the regional agreement. Chair Hayes recommended the School Committee organize a Regional Agreement Amendment Committee composed of two town officials from each town (one finance committee member and one selectman), one school committee member from each town, one citizen from each town, and the School Committee Chair and Superintendent of Schools. Citizens may submit their interest to the Michelle Kelley, Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent. The approval process was briefly explained to approve amended sections of the regional agreement and seek preliminary approval from the Commissioner of Education through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Once all amendments are finalized, the entire document would be approved. It is anticipated the process would take approximately six months and the subcommittee would meet on a monthly basis in the late afternoon or early evening.

Facilities Update – Duval and Maquan Roof Projects

Christine Suckow, Director of Business Services, reported the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) will be available on February 15, 2017 for the Duval School roof repair project. A walk-through is scheduled for February 27. Bid proposals for the Duval roof project will be due back to the District on March 3, 2017.

Chair Hayes reported that on January 25, 2017, the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District received ten (10) bid proposals for the Maquan School roof repair project. The Chair read a letter from Gale Associates to Christine Suckow in reference to their recommendation for the eligible and responsible bidder. In review of all bids, Gale Engineering recommended entering into a contract with Almar, LLC, the apparent eligible and responsible bidder for the combined bid scenario associated with the project, with a bid amount of \$54,247 to complete all of the work included within the bid documents. Chair Hayes cited the other lowest bidders as SRC Roofing at \$59,700 and KPR, Inc. with a bid proposal of \$67,650.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Cullity seconded; voted to approve the bid proposal from Almar LLC in the amount of \$54,247 for roof repairs and associated work at the Maquan Elementary School. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING ON SCHOOL CHOICE

Chair Hayes announced the Committee will go into a public hearing on the FY2018 school choice participation.

VOTE: Mr. Small; Mr. Howard seconded; roll call voted to open the Public Hearing for the School Choice participation for FY2018. The motion passed unanimously.

Principal Szymaniak recommended participating in school choice for the upcoming school year for the same high school grades as in previous years. Mr. Szymaniak stated the high school can accommodate up to twenty spots for Grade 9, ten spots for Grade 10, as well as any high school student moving out of district that may elect to remain enrolled in the Whitman-Hanson Regional High School.

Mr. Szymaniak discussed how school choice has helped the high school program of studies grow and has nearly 40 school choice students participating this year. Of those students, sixteen are students who moved out of district but remain enrolled at the high school to complete their high school career at Whitman-Hanson and graduate with their peers.

There was a lengthy discussion on reasons why some Whitman or Hanson resident students move away from the district and why out of district students choose Whitman-Hanson. The Committee also discussed the impact that non-resident students enrolling may have on resident students.

Principal Szymaniak explained due to home/life events (divorce, new job, etc.) students may move out of town but have a choice to remain at the high school to graduate. The principal also noted that for various reasons (academic offerings, athletic programs, the program of studies offerings, the high school facility or word of mouth), non-resident students choose to apply for school choice. Principal Szymaniak noted that enrollment is slightly down in the towns as well and school choice helps supplements that decrease.

The Committee discussed school choice as a revenue source and the relation of the \$5,000 in reimbursement per student from sending districts. Dr. Queally clarified that revenue for school choice students on Individualized Education Plans (IEP's) is adjusted based on their services. Dr. Whitner added that because revenue from school choice goes solely to programs at the high school, more revenue from the operating budget is available for elementary and middle school expenses. The net revenue from School Choice for this school year was reported at \$191,000.

Mr. Small initiated a discussion on student athletes and how these students may be chosen over resident student athletes. The Committee noted that there have been allegations in the community that deliberate recruiting for the girls' soccer team has taken place in the context of school choice. Mr. Szymaniak assured the Committee the student athletes are chosen by their ability to play the sport. Mr. Szymaniak confirmed that it may be possible, at times; a resident student athlete may be bumped by a non-resident choice student athlete. However, athletic team selection decisions are strictly based on athletic performance. Furthermore, it may be possible, at some point in time; a non-resident choice student could be the class valedictorian, based on academic achievement. Mr. Szymaniak clarified that once a student is enrolled in Whitman-Hanson Regional School District, the student is part of the Whitman-Hanson Regional High School. Despite hearsay, Mr. Szymaniak and Athletic Director Bob Rodgers confirmed that student athletes are not recruited for sports programs. They noted that recruiting is a violation of Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) rules. Mr. Szymaniak discussed reasons that students are interested in attending the Whitman-Hanson Regional High School. The Committee requested to receive reporting on the impact to resident student athletes of choice student athletes surpassing them in sports or academics. The reasons reach beyond athletic programs to Advanced Placement opportunities not offered in other high schools. Dr. Whitner recommended the Committee vote whether or not to participate in School Choice at this evening's meeting as part of the budget planning for FY2018. The current deficit is \$2.8 million.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mrs. Taylor seconded; vote to participate in School Choice for the upcoming 2017-18 school year as follows: Twenty spots for Grade 9, ten spots for Grade 10 and any high school student moving out of district who may elect to remain enrolled in the Whitman-Hanson Regional High School. The motion passed 5-2-1. Mr. Howard and Mr. Jones opposed. Mr. Hayes abstained.

VOTE: Mr. Small; Mr. Howard seconded; roll call voted to close the Public Hearing for the School Choice participation for FY2018. The motion passed unanimously.

Food Services Van

Ernie Sandland, Director of Facilities, reported that the Director of Food Services, Maureen MacKenzie, applied for and was awarded a grant partially funds towards Ford C-MAX for Food Services Departmental needs between school buildings. Mr. Sandland reported \$10,000 will offset the costs of the vehicle. The remaining balance will be covered by the Food Services Department. The Food Services Department funding and budget is independent of the Operating budget. Mr. Sandland recommended accepting the funding.

VOTE: Mr. Howard; Mrs. Taylor seconded; voted to accept funding to offset the partial cost of a Ford C-MAX hybrid van for the Food Services Department, as discussed. The motion passed unanimously.

Field Trip Requests

Ski and Snowboard Club

The Regional High School/Hanson Middle School Ski and Snowboard Club presented a field trip request for a change in venue for their March 4, 2017 ski trip from Killington, VT to Ludlow, VT at Okemo Mountain.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mrs. Taylor seconded; voted to approve the out-of-state field trip for the Ski and Snowboard Club to Ludlow, VT at Okemo Mountain on March 4, 2017, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Softball Team

In a memo from Athletic Director, Bob Rodgers, he requested the approval for travel and an overnight stay in Maryland to play on April 19, 2017 at Winters Mill High School in Westminster, MD. The team will also plan to attend a Red Sox game in Baltimore at Camden Yards on April 21.

VOTE: Mrs. Taylor motioned; Mr. Howard seconded; voted to waive the nurse requirement and approve the overnight, out-of-state field trip for the Softball team to Maryland to play against Winters Mill High School in Westminster, MD on April 19, 2017 and attend the Red Sox game in Baltimore at Camden Yards on April 21, 2017, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

PUBLIC HEARING ON SCHOOL BUDGET

Chair Hayes announced the Committee will open a public hearing on the FY2018 school district budget.

VOTE: Mr. Small; Mr. Howard seconded; roll call voted to open the Public Hearing for the School District Budget Presentation for FY2018. The motion passed unanimously.

State Representatives, Josh Cutler and Geoff Diehl, were present and reported on current legislative efforts and the Governor's budget proposal (House I). Senator Brady's assistant and W-H Regional High School alumnus, Rick Branca, represented Senator Michael Brady. Representative Geoff Diehl weighed in on school choice stating he considers the program to be a hidden benefit that provides opportunities for students that otherwise would not have one. Representative Diehl and Representative Cutler both reported on the Governor's Budget, which was released last week. Efforts by state representatives to increase the minimum the per pupil increment last year were successful. A new petition to adopt a bill to amend the definition of 'minimum aid' to "the amount of minimum state school aid available to a municipality in any fiscal year shall be no less than fifty dollars multiplied by the district foundation enrollment" has been signed by several legislators and was filed on January 20, 2017. Although the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District receives significant funding from state aid, the representatives vowed to continue to attain any increases possible. Mr. Rick Branca added that Senator Brady will support the bill as well. Representative Diehl briefly spoke to the recreational marijuana law which won't be in effect until 2018 as a revenue source. Dr. Whitner thanked the state officials for their advocacy for Chapter 70 funding; and expressed a

concern about Chapter 71 state funding for regional transportation reimbursement. The proposed allocation is down \$110,000 from FY2017 in the Governor's budget proposal. Transportation reimbursement funding is intended to be at 100%, subject to appropriation. It has not been fully reimbursed in many years.. Dr. Whitner reported that with the proposed Governor's Budget, the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District will net a \$5,000 increase in state aid.

WHRSD Budget Proposal FY2018

Dr. Whitner began her presentation on the FY2018 Whitman-Hanson Regional School District budget proposal by discussing changes in education and how students require far different curriculum and instruction than in the past. .

Dr. Whitner began with citing excerpts in the letter to the School Committee in Section I Executive Summary of the budget proposal presentation. The Superintendent commented on decisions tied to strategic plan and improvement plans and three pillars of the plan. The three Pillars of the plan voted approved by the Committee recently are I) Every Child, Every Day with Healthy Minds and Healthy Bodies, II) A Cohesive PreK-12 System of Teaching and Learning, and III) Safe and Secure Schools. Dr. Whitner discussed the priorities of the administrative team and working to accomplish the action plans of Planning for Success. Dr. Whitner indicated the certification of the budget is a six week process, and this evening's presentation of the proposal is the first step.

The Table of Contents for the budget presentation is as follows:

- I. Overview/Executive Summary
- II. Historical/Background Information
- III. Grants and Other Funding Sources
- IV. Revenue
- V. FY018 Budget Proposal – Level Service
- VI. FY2018 Strategic Plan Action Plans
- VII. Staffing
- VIII. Capital Improvement
- IX. Notes/Additional Information

The budget proposed in Section V is the level service budget. Presented in Section VI are two prioritized requests that align with the 2016-2017 Action Plans of the District's Strategic Plan

- One to One Devices (Chromebooks, iPads) - \$100,000/year for three years
- No Cost Full Day Kindergarten - \$400,000

I. Overview/Executive Summary

Listed below are areas of concern and consideration.

- Rising Costs of Health Insurance
- Kindergarten – Full Day Tuition of \$3200 annually; no cost half-day (*Currently 82 % of districts in MA have tuition free full day kindergarten. Whitman-Hanson is the minority.*)
- Insufficient One to One Instructional Technology devices to meet curricular needs.
- Foreign Language: There are two foreign language teachers (Spanish) at the middle schools, one at Hanson Middle School and one at Whitman Middle School. Twenty years ago, Spanish, French, and Latin were offered to all middle school students.

- In 2007, the District band teacher retired. That position has never been filled.
- School adjustment counselors were eliminated from elementary schools in 2004.
- The assistant principal position at the high school was eliminated in 2012.
- The assistant principal position at the Maquan School was eliminated in 2013.
- Social workers at the elementary level are funded by a federal grant obtained through our partnership with North River Collaborative. That grant ends in June 2017.
- The high school's support program for at risk students is grant funded.
- The elementary science program, Know Atom, is supported by a grant from the Gelfand Foundation.
- \$950,000 was used from Excess and Deficiency as a revenue source for FY2016-2017.
- Because the Towns of Whitman and Hanson are below in target share contributions, significant increases in Chapter 70 are unlikely.
- Because the enrollment of students from the Towns of Whitman and Hanson has decreased, significant increases in Chapter 70 are unlikely.
- Regional Transportation reimbursement amounts are uncertain.
- Circuit Breaker reimbursement amounts are uncertain.
- Assessments for charter school students.
- Until the Towns of Whitman and Hanson meet their target share contributions, additional Chapter 70 funding for the implementation of full day kindergarten will not be available. (Source: MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education)
- The continued implementation of the elementary education programs, EnVisionMath program and Know Atom, require the purchase of consumable materials.
- Professional development allocations from the operating budget are among the lowest in the state.
- Special education costs continue to increase.
- The number of low income families requires additional support services. Since the 2007-2008 school year, the percentage of families eligible for free and reduced lunch has risen from 12.5% to 29.5%. This increase translates into a greater need for support services that include counseling, social services, special education, full day no-cost kindergarten, and early childhood education.

II. Historical/Background Information

Christine Suckow explained the chart of accounts expenditures by reported function to the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Dr. Whitner noted in the chart the final column which again uses a state average. District administrative leadership, professional development, and operations and maintenance (including utilities) remain three of the lowest comparative to the state average. District funding priorities are focused on classroom instruction. The Superintendent also noted per pupil expenditures and teaching staff to student ratios were below state averages. According to the most recent DESE School Finance data, Whitman-Hanson ranked eleventh from the bottom in average per pupil expenditures (FY2015).

III. Grants and Other Funding Sources

Dr. Whitner reported that beyond the operating budget, additional revenue sources include grants and other funding sources in the form of federal, state, and private grant opportunities which provide additional resources and staffing for District programs. Some of these funding sources are

Federal/State Entitlement and Allocation Grants, Federal/State Competitive Grants, and Private Competitive Grants. Not included in the information was a grant recently submitted by Dr. John Queally and awarded \$20,000 under the Safe and Supportive Schools grant. The Superintendent reported that almost 85 positions district-wide are funded by these funding sources at \$3,159,095.

IV. Revenue

Christine Suckow presented the anticipated revenue figures for FY2018 in Section 4. The local assessment percentages for each town at the current assessment based on 2016 October 1 enrollment figures for the Town of Whitman at 59.55% enrollment shows an increase of \$162,000 and for the Town of Hanson at 40.45% enrollment, a decrease of \$162,000. The District will work with the towns for an assessment. The district-wide revenue is down \$897,767 or -1.5% and does not take into account any increase in services.

The chart below shows the shift in this percentage for 2016-2017 in comparison to 2017-2018.

| Fiscal Year | FY 17 | | FY18 |
|--------------------|--------------|--|-------------|
| | | | |
| Hanson | 41.32% | | 40.45% |
| Enrollment | 1685 | | 1618 |
| Whitman | 58.68% | | 59.55% |
| Enrollment | 2393 | | 2382 |

Dr. Whitner stated it would be up to the School Committee to determine whether they will use a portion of the Excess and Deficiency account to offset the budget deficit again this year. The balance in Excess and Deficiency (E&D) certified as of June 30, 2016 is \$ 1,246,484.

A schedule of local assessment scenarios was presented and will be discussed in upcoming meetings. Dr. Whitner reported a 1% increase to the assessment would add \$186,718 in revenue from local aid to the deficit. Mr. Frank Lynam, Town Administrator in Whitman, suggested adding columns in the assessment schedule to juxtapose the assessment increase and the corresponding budget increase.

FY 2018 ASSESSMENTS DETAIL and PERCENTAGE INCREASE

| | | WHITMAN | | HANSON | | TOTAL | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------|-----------|----------|--------|
| FY 2017: Apportionment of Operating Costs Per Regional Agreement | | 59.55% | | 40.45% | | | | | | | |
| FY17 | FY 2017 | 58.68 | 10,956,757 | FY 2016 | 41.32 | 7,715,066 | 18,671,823 | | | | |
| *Adjust for Enrollment as of October 1, 2016 | | 162,314 | | | | (162,314) | | | | | |
| LEVEL BUDGET NO INCREASE ASSESSMENT FROM TOWNS | | 11,119,071 | | | | 7,552,752 | | 18,671,823 | | | |
| | | OPERATING EXPENSES | | ANTICIPATED REVENUES | | REMAINING DEFICIT | | % | | \$ | |
| FY- 2018 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET | | 48,937,128 | | 46,209,374 | | ** 2,727,754 | | OVER FY 2017 | | BY TOWN | |
| TOTAL ASSESSMENT | | WHITMAN | | HANSON | | TOTAL | | WHITMAN | | HANSON | |
| INCREASE IN ASSESSMENT BY % | INCREASE AMT ADDED TO BUDGET | AMT INCREASE | TOTAL ASSESSMENT | AMT INCREASE | TOTAL ASSESSMENT | TOTAL ASSESSMENT | BUDGET REMAINING DEFICIT | WHITMAN | HANSON | WHITMAN | HANSON |
| 1% | 186,718 | 111,191 | 11,230,262 | 75,528 | 7,628,280 | 2,541,036 | 2,500% | -1.12% | 273,505 | (86,786) | |
| 2% | 373,436 | 222,381 | 11,341,452 | 151,055 | 7,703,807 | 2,354,318 | 3.51% | -0.15% | 384,695 | (11,259) | |
| 2.5% | 466,796 | 277,977 | 11,397,048 | 188,819 | 7,741,571 | 2,260,958 | 4.02% | 0.34% | 440,291 | 26,505 | |
| 3% | 560,155 | 333,572 | 11,452,643 | 226,583 | 7,779,335 | 2,167,599 | 4.53% | 0.83% | 495,886 | 64,269 | |
| 3.5% | 653,514 | 389,167 | 11,508,238 | 264,346 | 7,817,098 | 2,074,240 | 5.03% | 1.32% | 551,481 | 102,032 | |
| 4% | 746,873 | 444,763 | 11,563,834 | 302,110 | 7,854,862 | 1,980,881 | 5.54% | 1.81% | 607,077 | 139,796 | |
| 4.5% | 840,232 | 500,358 | 11,619,429 | 339,874 | 7,892,626 | 1,887,522 | 6.05% | 2.30% | 662,672 | 177,560 | |
| 5% | 933,591 | 555,954 | 11,675,025 | 377,638 | 7,930,390 | 1,794,163 | 6.56% | 2.79% | 718,268 | 215,324 | |
| 5.5% | 1,026,950 | 611,549 | 11,730,620 | 415,401 | 7,968,153 | 1,700,804 | 7.06% | 3.28% | 773,863 | 253,087 | |
| 6% | 1,120,309 | 667,144 | 11,786,215 | 453,165 | 8,005,917 | 1,607,445 | 7.57% | 3.77% | 829,458 | 290,851 | |
| 6.5% | 1,213,668 | 722,740 | 11,841,811 | 490,929 | 8,043,681 | 1,514,086 | 8.08% | 4.26% | 885,054 | 328,615 | |
| 7.0% | 1,307,028 | 778,335 | 11,897,406 | 528,693 | 8,081,445 | 1,420,726 | 8.59% | 4.75% | 940,649 | 366,379 | |
| 7.5% | 1,400,387 | 833,930 | 11,953,001 | 566,456 | 8,119,208 | 1,327,367 | 9.09% | 5.24% | 996,244 | 404,142 | |
| 8.0% | 1,493,746 | 889,526 | 12,008,597 | 604,220 | 8,156,972 | 1,234,008 | 9.60% | 5.73% | 1,051,840 | 441,906 | |
| 8.5% | 1,587,105 | 945,121 | 12,064,192 | 641,984 | 8,194,736 | 1,140,649 | 10.11% | 6.22% | 1,107,435 | 479,670 | |
| 9.0% | 1,680,464 | 1,000,716 | 12,119,787 | 679,748 | 8,232,500 | 1,047,290 | 10.61% | 6.71% | 1,163,030 | 517,434 | |
| 9.5% | 1,773,823 | 1,056,312 | 12,175,383 | 717,511 | 8,270,263 | 953,931 | 11.12% | 7.20% | 1,218,626 | 555,197 | |
| 10.0% | 1,867,182 | 1,111,907 | 12,230,978 | 755,275 | 8,308,027 | 860,572 | 11.63% | 7.69% | 1,274,221 | 592,961 | |
| 10.5% | 1,960,541 | 1,167,502 | 12,286,573 | 793,039 | 8,345,791 | 767,213 | 12.14% | 8.18% | 1,329,816 | 630,725 | |
| 11.0% | 2,053,901 | 1,223,098 | 12,342,169 | 830,803 | 8,383,555 | 673,853 | 12.64% | 8.66% | 1,385,412 | 668,489 | |
| 11.5% | 2,147,260 | 1,278,693 | 12,397,764 | 868,567 | 8,421,319 | 580,494 | 13.15% | 9.15% | 1,441,007 | 706,253 | |
| 12.0% | 2,240,619 | 1,334,288 | 12,453,359 | 906,330 | 8,459,082 | 487,135 | 13.66% | 9.64% | 1,496,602 | 744,016 | |
| 13.0% | 2,427,337 | 1,445,479 | 12,564,550 | 981,858 | 8,534,610 | 300,417 | 14.67% | 10.62% | 1,607,793 | 819,544 | |
| 13.5% | 2,520,696 | 1,501,075 | 13,639,767 | 1,019,622 | 8,572,374 | 207,058 | 15.18% | 11.11% | 1,663,389 | 857,308 | |
| 14.0% | 2,614,055 | 1,556,670 | 12,675,741 | 1,057,385 | 8,610,137 | 113,699 | 15.69% | 11.85% | 1,718,984 | 895,071 | |
| 14.61% | 2,727,953 | 1,624,496 | 12,743,567 | 1,103,457 | 8,656,209 | (199) | 16.31% | 12.20% | 1,786,810 | 941,143 | |

* The Regional Agreement annually reviews enrollment as of October 1st and apportions assessments to member towns as a percentage.
 ** This is based on Governors Budget January 25, 2017
 ***This does not include anticipated E & D transfer

Dr. Whitner discussed concerns with target share and state aid and Whitman-Hanson’s dependency on state aid. The Superintendent explained the history of state aid and how it has changed over the years.

In 2007, the state implemented a **target local contribution for each municipality that** establishes an ideal goal for how much each city and town should contribute toward its foundation budget, based on the municipality's wealth. Two measures of municipal wealth are used: aggregate property values and aggregate personal income levels, with each given equal weight. The target is recalculated each year based upon the most recent income and property valuations. The target calculations assume that local contributions in total should cover 59 percent of the state-wide foundation budget (**target local share**), with state aid covering the remaining 41 percent (**target aid share**). At this time, state aid covers over 63% of Whitman-Hanson’s foundation budget. The target local share and target aid share for any individual city or town will vary in proportion to the municipality's wealth. The target calculation also includes a **maximum local share** of 82.5 percent, thus ensuring that all communities will get some minimum amount of state funding.

REQUIRED MINIMUM SPENDING

| LEA | Foundation Enrollment | | | Required Minimum Contribution | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------|--------|-------------------------------|------------|---------|
| | FY17 | FY16 | Change | FY17 | FY16 | Change |
| District Total | 3939 | 3964 | -25 | 16,774,824 | 16,147,370 | 627,454 |
| Hanson | 1634 | 1653 | -19 | 7,525,809 | 7,150,999 | 374,810 |
| Whitman | 2305 | 2311 | -6 | 9,249,015 | 8,996,371 | 252,644 |

TARGET SHARE – CALCULATION OF EFFORT

| | Local Target Share | Actual | Below effort | Distance from Target |
|----------------|--------------------|--------|--------------|----------------------|
| HANSON | 53.01% | 47.33% | \$976,654 | -5.68% |
| WHITMAN | 44.23% | 41.23% | \$742,910 | -3.00% |

V. FY018 Budget Proposal – Level Service

Dr. Whitner reviewed the budget proposal for level service as well as the strategic plan action plan on page 39.

FY 2018 BUDGET PROPOSAL – Level Service

FY 2018 BUDGET PROPOSAL – Strategic Plan Action Items

The table below illustrates the proposed budget expenses for the Fiscal Year beginning on July 1, 2017 and ending on June 30, 2018, referred to as FY 2017-2018. Overall this represents a 2.25% increase of the current fiscal year.

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| FINAL BUDGET FY 2017 | 47,079,141 |
| PROPOSED BUDGET FY 2018 – LEVEL SERVICES | 48,937,127 |
| INCREASE (\$) | 1,857,987 |
| INCREASE (%) | 3.95% |

The Whitman-Hanson Regional School District has general fund revenues from many sources. These include the local town assessments, funding from the State (Chapter 70), and reimbursements for expenses in eligible programs such as transportation and special education. At this time many of these numbers are based on projections which often are not finalized until the state legislature approves the budget in May or June. At this point the estimate is:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| FY 2017 REVENUES | 47,079,141 |
| FY 2018 ESTIMATED REVENUES | 46,209,374 |
| SHORTFALL (\$) | -869,767 |

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| SHORTFALL (%) | -1.5% |
|----------------------|--------------|

FY18 TOTAL ANTICIPATED DEFICIT

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Increased expenses | 1,857,987 |
| Shortfall Projected Revenue | 869,767 |
| Total Anticipated Deficit – LEVEL SERVICES | 2,727,754 |

Dr. Whitner and Christine Suckow reviewed line items by school and by category in this section, highlighting the percentage changes and answering questions.

Noted percentage increases were contractual obligations and the reinstatement of library services. Staff increases to address size took place at Conley and Indian Head Schools. Also, per contractual obligations, paraprofessionals at the middle school level hours were increased to the full student day and imminent salary lane changes were identified. Dr. Whitner clarified the middle school library media program includes technology and library services responsibility.

Christine Suckow clarified the increase in the Principals’ line is a transfer of the curriculum directors salaries from the high school budget line to the district-wide budget line. The decrease in the teaching and learning salary line is the elimination of the assistant superintendent of teaching and learning position

The Committee also heard from the Curriculum Directors of Science and Mathematics, Mark Stephansky and Brian Selig, regarding old standards versus new standards and the requirements for meeting 2019 standards. Mr. Stephansky shared the opportunity for the elementary level through the Gelfand Trust grant funding and highlighted the lack of current teaching materials at the middle school level. The goal is to develop current learning methods using both textbook and online 21st century learning resources.

Another area that impacts the budget is English Language Learners, or ELL students. Dr. Whitner reported the number of students with English as a second language has increased this year, requiring additional English as A Second Language instructional services. The Superintendent continued to review the line items and answer questions.

Christine Suckow discussed increases to the retirement assessment through GIC and Plymouth County which are up over \$200,000 and \$20,000 respectively. Mrs. Suckow reported the next meeting of the Mayflower Municipal Health Insurance (MMHG) Steering Committee is scheduled for February 15 and she will report back at that time. Mr. Lynam explained that current health “legacy” plans are of concern and a subject the Steering Committee will be discussing and possibly force members to migrate to other plans as rates for those may increase nearly 28% versus the other insurance plans which may increase between 8% and 11%. Town of Whitman resident, Marshall Ottina, asked about the increase to employee health insurance and impact of changes in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to the budget. He was specifically interested in the provision that employees, younger than 26 years old, may remain on their parents’ insurance plans. While there have been some savings to the District’s budget when younger employees have been hired since the

implementation of the ACA, the impact of any change in that provision cannot be determined accurately at this time.

The Superintendent explained the increase in the Facilities line item and clarified two positions were eliminated from the SJ Services contract and moved to the school district.

Dr. Whitner reported for level service the proposed FY2018 budget deficit is \$1,857,987. Over the next six weeks, the budget will be the main focus of the School Committee. A community member spoke to the Committee and Superintendent that the explanation of the budget is very comprehensive but called on the administration not to eliminate textbooks altogether.

Section VI. FY2018 Strategic Plan Action Plans

Dr. Whitner re-iterated the Strategic Plan Action Plans proposal information found on page 49 of the budget binder presentation. The Superintendent delivered information on the budgetary consideration that they are linked to the Action Plans of the District’s Strategic Plan.

Priorities are as follows:

Priority – Pillars I, II, III – Increase availability of One to One Electronic Devices

Cost Estimate - \$300,000 (\$100,000/year for 3 years)

Dr. Whitner discussed how many of the devices used in the district today are the direct product of fundraisers. Dr. Dillon discussed ‘what if’ scenarios and the importance of 21st century curriculum and devices to help communicate in case of emergency or unanticipated situations. There was a discussion that the purchase of such devices may be submitted as a capital expense warrant article similar to a recent article in the town of Danvers. Director of Technology Services, Chad Peters, reported that student virtual access at home on their own devices is in progress and will be rolled out within two months.

Priority – Pillars I and II - No Cost Full Day Kindergarten

Projected Expenses Full Day Kindergarten

| School | Enrollment T/F/H | Teachers | Paras | Projected- T | Projected -P |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| Duval | 75/50/25 | 3 | 3 | 3 (25) | 3 |
| Conley | 83/50/33 | 3 | 3 | 4 (23) | 4 |
| Maquan | 98/75/23 | 4 | 4 | 4 (24) | 4 |
| Total | 256/175/81 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 11 |

| Item | # | Cost/unit | Total | |
|-------------------|---|-----------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Teachers | 1 | \$60,000 | \$60,000 | New |
| Teachers | | | \$245,000 | K-Revolving |
| Paras | | | \$65,000 | K-Revolving |
| Paraprofessionals | 1 | \$20,000 | \$20,000 | New |
| Classroom | 1 | \$10,000 | \$10,000 | Supplies and Classroom Set Up |
| Total | | | \$400,000 | |

Other Priorities

Pillar III - Safety and Security: Capital Improvements, Implementation of Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP). Dr. Patrick Dillon is working on safety and security to insure a plan is in place to educate staff in cases of emergency. Training is phased in over a period of time.

Pillar II - Foreign Language Program

2016-2017: Each middle school has one foreign language teacher. Class size issues at WHRHS. Compared to other districts in the Commonwealth, WHRSD program is relatively meager.

Pillar II - Related Arts

2016-2017: Instrumental music position (secondary-band) cut in 2007. Two art teachers provide instruction for 1,200 students at WHRHS.

Pillar I: Student Support

2016-2017: Social workers at elementary level are grant-funded. Grant ends –June 30, 2017
Adjustment counselors at the elementary level were cut in 2004.

The lack of adjustment counselors at the elementary level was of concern to many community members and parents in attendance.

Mrs. Donovan, a Conley school parent, expressed concern for students needing mental and social support at school. Parent and community member, Sean Kain, commented that school districts need to be more proactive at the lower level supporting full day kindergarten and social workers at the elementary schools as research has shown students with those provisions will be less likely to require out of district resources in the later school years.

Dr. Whitner continued to review the budget proposal and presentation, noting that Sections VII and VIII contain staffing lists and capital project information for all schools. The last section, Section IV, contains information on understanding how a regional school district budget works.

Mr. Small commented on the mental health challenges faced by students in the current times. Dr. Queally commented on the importance of professional development offered through grants and discussed the differences in the role of a school psychologist position at the elementary level versus a counselor. Mrs. Stockdale stated the role of a counselor is that of a liaison to the parent and home; a very critical role lost in reduction in force. She added that counselors remain a vital resource for student support at the elementary level.

Duval parent, Dawn Byers, expressed concerns with children in families with opioid issues and asked how the new legislative bill addressing opioid addiction would affect children and what the state representatives can do to support children and students living in that type of home environment. She would like to see more support at the school level and to identify young students impacted by the bill. Representative Diehl offered to speak to the parent separately regarding these concerns.

In closing, Chair Hayes talked about the work the School Committee is charged to do over the next few months to balance the budget deficit of \$2,727,754. A number of options may be considered to address funding issues, including the possibility of transferring funds out of the E&D account, although the E&D account line is ideally to be used for emergencies only. Other options may include

eliminating the athletic program, staff reductions, double sessions, and closing the Maquan School as alternatives to generate additional revenue to close the budget gap.

Chair Hayes announced upcoming important dates.

February 15, 2017 – Facilities Sub-Committee @ 6:00 PM (moved to 5:45 PM)

February 15, 2017 – School Committee Meeting @ 6:45 PM for Project 351 presentation

February 20, 2017 – No School – President’s Day Observed – Central office Closed

February 20-24, 2017 – No School Winter Break

March 8, 2017 – School Committee Meeting @ 7:00 PM

March 15, 2017 – School Committee Meeting @ 7:00 PM

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Cullity seconded; voted to close the Public Hearing for the School District Budget Presentation for FY2018. The motion passed unanimously.

VOTE: Mr. Small motioned; Mr. Cullity seconded; voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Michelle Kelley

Meeting Materials and Handouts:

Meeting Agenda for February 1, 2017

Meeting Minutes of the January 11, 2017

Field Trip Request for Ski and Snowboard Club

Field Trip Request for Softball Team

School choice student athlete tally sheet

Copy of a legislative petition for a bill “An act insuring adequate minimum school aid” of “no less than fifty dollars multiplied by the district foundation enrollment”

Budget Presentation/Proposal FY2018