



Westwood School Committee

February 5, 2026



Superintendent's Report

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Seen Around WPS...



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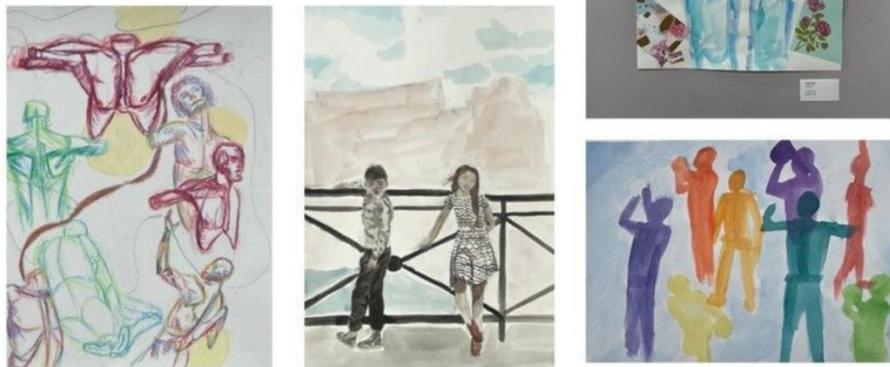
Seen Around WPS...



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Figuring It Out

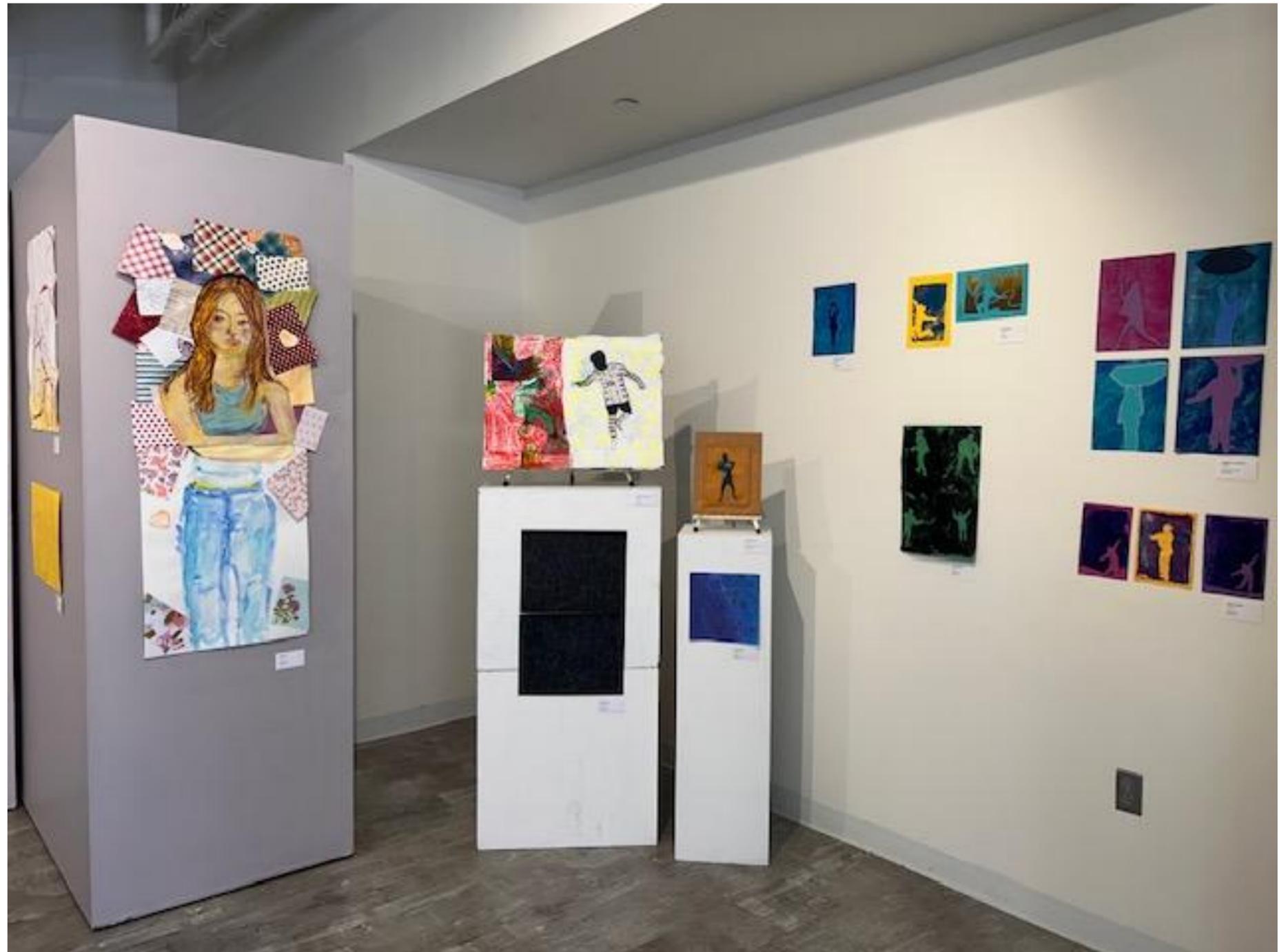
Showcasing the process of learning to draw the human figure



The work in this show demonstrates Studio Art 2 students' progress in learning how to draw the human figure using a variety of different processes, materials, and methods.

This show exhibits figure-drawings, from targeted studies of the details that compose the figure, to sketches of the movement and form of the figure as a whole, to more complete works that integrate the figure as a subject in a broader artistic context.

On View in the WHS Gallery January 13th - February 6th



Chair's Update



FY27 Budget Update

February 5, 2026

Scenario Development

- On January 21, the originally proposed FY27 budget was \$61,296,182
 - 4.31% increase over FY26
- On January 28, the School Committee asked for two scenarios to be presented:
 - \$300,000 increase over the originally proposed FY27 budget
 - An FY27 budget at an amount consistent with the cost of level services
- Three scenarios presented this evening:
 - Scenario 1: \$300,000 increase from proposed (4.82% above FY26)
 - Scenario 2: \$352,400 increase from proposed (4.91% above FY26)
 - Scenario 3: \$517,850 increase from proposed (5.19% above FY26)

Scenario Development

- In developing both the originally proposed budget, and the three new scenarios, the guiding principle has been to focus on direct student-facing positions, with a priority of preserving access to educational opportunities for students
- In building the new scenarios, the highest priority was to address class sizes that were projected to be over School Committee guidelines at elementary schools for 2026-2027:
 - Downey, Grade 4
 - Martha Jones, Grade 1
 - Pine Hill, Grade 2
 - Sheehan, Grade 5

Scenario 1 - \$300,000 (4.82% total)

- Restore 1.0 FTE Classroom Teacher, Downey: \$77,000
- Restore 1.0 FTE Classroom Teacher, Martha Jones: \$91,800
- Restore 1.0 FTE Classroom Teacher, Sheehan: \$91,800
- Add 1.0 FTE Classroom Teacher, Pine Hill: \$91,800
- Reduce 1.0 FTE Instructional Aide: -\$35,600
- Raise fee increase (bus, athletics, PK) from 4% to 6%: -\$16,800 (increased offset)

Scenario 1

- The restoration/addition of a classroom at each elementary school brings class size at each school into better alignment with School Committee guidelines
- May be a need to relocate special subject areas (art, music, DLCS) out of dedicated classroom space in some schools
- Pine Hill Grade 2 classroom will be in the STEM room, relocating DLCS classes and office/workspace for staff
- Although there are logistical challenges, strong belief that the restoration of the classroom positions is in the best interest of students for 2026-2027
 - Uncertainty about what future budget cycles will bring, and if the level of staffing will be able to be maintained in 2027-2028 and beyond

Scenario 1

- Reduction of a 1.0 FTE Instructional Aide (IA) position will likely create significant pressure on managing the FY27 budget in response to student enrollment
 - IA position would be used to alleviate enrollment pressures or to support newly identified students' needs in educational plans
- To reach the \$300,000 target in Scenario 1, fees would be increased by 6% (instead of the originally proposed 4%) to increase the budget offset by \$16,800

Scenario 1 - Fee Structure

Fee	FY26	FY27 original	FY27 revised
Bus	\$290	\$300	\$320
Bus Family Cap	\$870	\$900	\$960
Athletic	\$320	\$334	\$340
Athletic Family Cap	\$1280	\$1336	\$1360
Preschool	\$12.16/hour	\$12.65/hour	\$12.89/hour

Scenario 2 - \$352,400 (4.91% total)

- Restore 1.0 FTE Classroom Teacher, Downey: \$77,000
- Restore 1.0 FTE Classroom Teacher, Martha Jones: \$91,800
- Restore 1.0 FTE Classroom Teacher, Sheehan: \$91,800
- Add 1.0 FTE Classroom Teacher, Pine Hill: \$91,800

Scenario 2

- Scenario 2 is the same as Scenario 1, without the elimination of the IA position, or the additional increase in fees
- Recognizes the high likelihood of the need to allocate the IA position during next school year
 - In response to higher-than-projected enrollment or shifting special education needs
- Maintains originally proposed 4% increase in fees

Scenario 3 - \$517,850 (5.19% total)

- Restore 1.0 FTE Classroom Teacher, Downey: \$77,000
- Restore 1.0 FTE Classroom Teacher, Martha Jones: \$91,800
- Restore 1.0 FTE Classroom Teacher, Sheehan: \$91,800
- Add 1.0 FTE Classroom Teacher, Pine Hill: \$91,800
- Restore 1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher, Thurston MA: \$87,000
- Restore 1.0 FTE Mathematics Teacher, Westwood HS: \$78,450

Scenario 3

- Scenario 3 is the same as Scenario 2, but also restores the special education teacher at TMS and the math teacher at WHS
- While neither of these reductions would have results in the loss of educational programming for students, the restoration of these positions would provide for lower student-to-teacher ratios in special education at TMS and math/science at WHS

Next Steps

- School Committee Public Budget Hearing: **February 23, 2026**
- Finance Committee Presentation: **March 10, 2026**
- Annual Town Meeting: **May 4, 2026**

Buffer Zones

Why Buffer Zones?

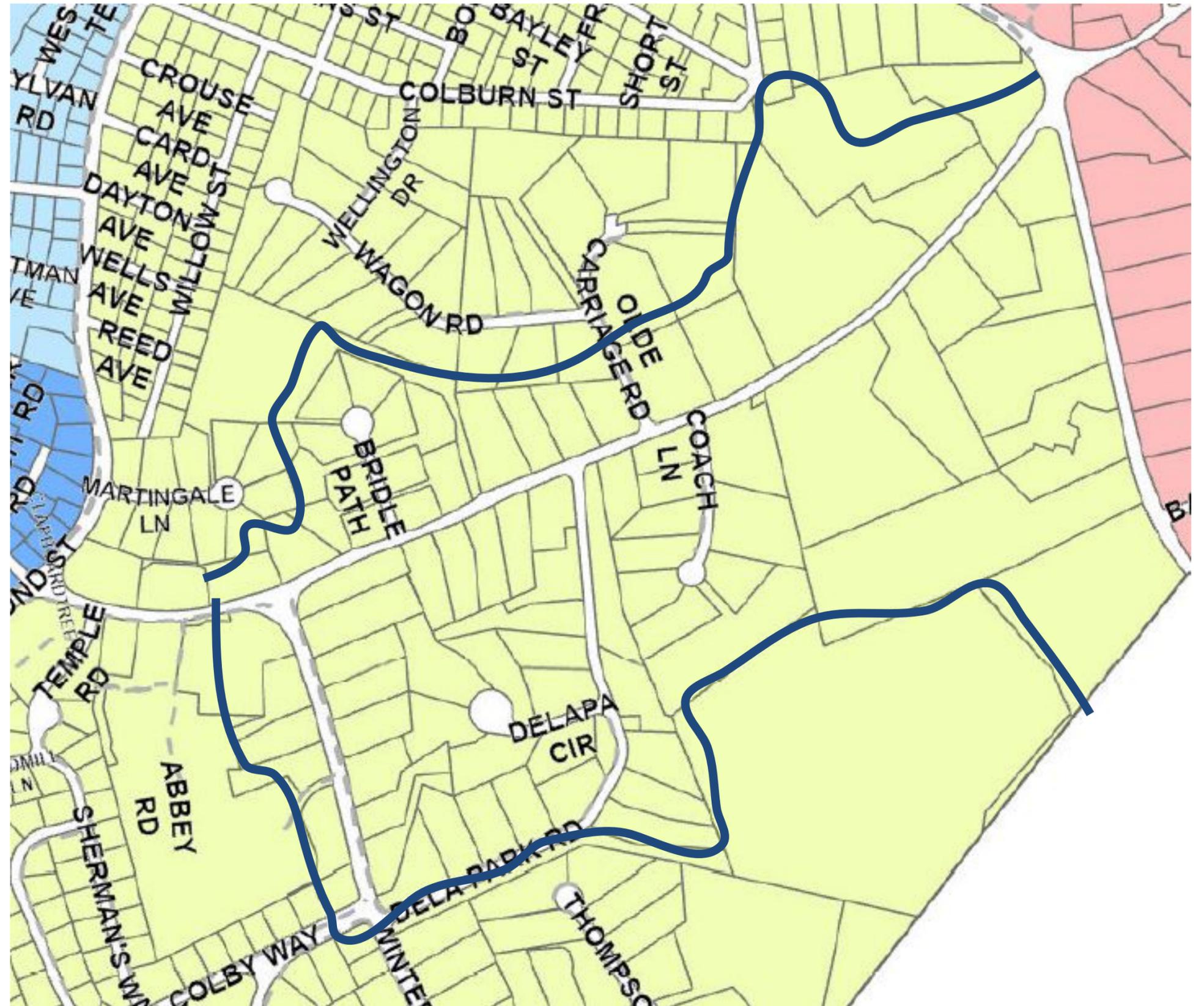
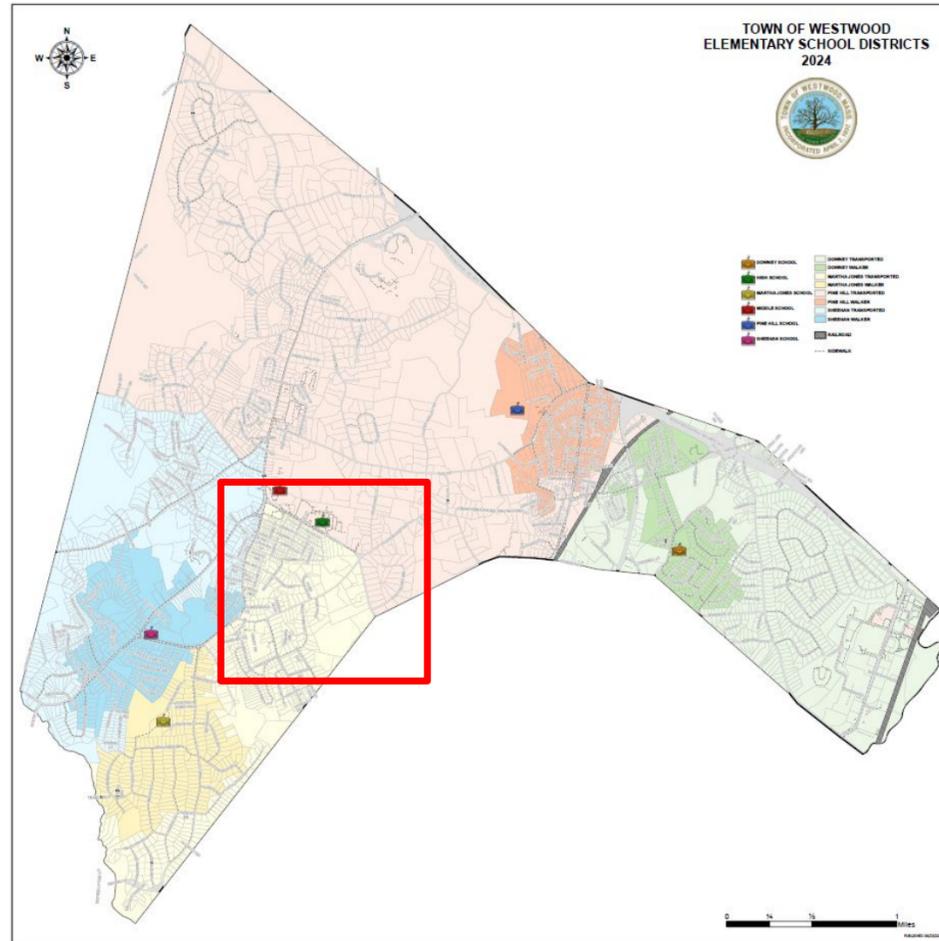
- Given the uncertainty of kindergarten enrollment, and the relatively small size of our elementary schools, buffer zones create greater flexibility in student assignment
 - Supports classes within class size guidelines
 - Supports staffing in a fiscally responsible manner
- FY2027 budget contains eleven kindergarten classrooms:
 - Four (4) classrooms at Pine Hill
 - A combined seven (7) classrooms at Downey, Martha Jones, and Sheehan
- Budget tables currently have three (3) kindergarten classrooms at Sheehan; distribution will depend on actual student enrollment

Guiding Principles

- Existing school assignment zones will remain unchanged
- Buffer zones will only be applied for class size management and enrollment relief, as needed
- Siblings will be assigned to same elementary school, whenever possible
- Identify buffer zones near pre-existing boundaries or along main roads to minimize bus detours and length of bus rides
- Current walker addresses may be included in buffer zones, but weigh this factor during student assignment
- Students in buffer zones will have bus eligibility determined in accordance with School Committee policy
- Intent to open Kindergarten registration sooner in future years

Zones in Consideration

Martha Jones



Sheehan

