

DATE: January 28, 2023
TO: NRHS District Superintendent, Kirk Downing
FROM: Lancaster Finance Committee
SUBJECT: FY2024 Budget

On behalf of the Town of Lancaster and the members of the Lancaster Finance Committee, we write to you seeking your strong consideration and attention to the upcoming FY24 budget request that shall soon fall upon us for approval.

We have seen over the last two three years consistent and sizable budget increases totaling close to 11 percent, on a compounded annual budget increase. We write to express our concerns about your ability to control and/or slow down the rate of spending that is occurring within NRHS District. We are unable to accept or sustain these 4-6% annual increases. We would also like to request an outline of your critical drivers from FY22 to FY23 causing the 5.26% and then understand what is promoting the additional 5.31% that we are hearing is occurring for FY24 budget?

Our Town and the surrounding towns are experiencing significant financial constraints and ALL of us have had to find the means to look within as we promote responsible financial spending. In a time when the State has a \$3B surplus to share as well as the most recently passed Millionaires' tax whereby the revenues collected will be distributed to public education, we need to have your organization look upwards to the State or significantly minimize spending, at this time.

Our other civic services repeatedly suffer and lessen, given the pull that our School District places upon us. Lancaster especially needs to understand how we continue to see increases with declining school pupil ratios. We respectfully ask you consider the obvious constraints the taxpayers and our town government are experiencing now as you further review your FY24 budget proposal.

Thank you....

Susan Smiley, Chair
Town of Lancaster, Finance Committee