

The School Committees Report

The School Committees are dedicated to supporting the school districts' educational goals for Concord, Carlisle and Boston students while maintaining a transparent public process related to policy decisions. This article is one in a series that is intended to update and inform the residents of Concord and Carlisle about the districts' on-going activities, initiatives and policies.

2016 Summer Programs, Projects, Professional Development, and Projected Enrollment

The formal academic year may have ended in June, but both Districts remain busy with summer schools, professional development programs and curriculum development projects.

The Districts have created a comprehensive support system for students including summer learning opportunities. Examples include the Concord Public Schools (CPS) four-week summer school session which features 26 CPS teachers, CPS tutors, and 16 volunteer high school and college students providing instruction to more than 200 students. Students are helped with reading, writing, and math in morning classes and participate in Concord Recreation programs in the afternoon. At the Middle School, there was a math enrichment program for Boston students (grades 4-8) to improve math achievement through project-based learning and the CCHS offered the "Algebridge" program for incoming ninth grade students. The services are provided at no charge to families.

Teachers and professional staff have been participating in professional development programs and working on curriculum projects. The Concord Teaching Fellows program features CPS teachers providing instruction to fellow teachers and more than 300 teachers participated in 32 professional development courses. Courses included instruction on working with integrated technology tools as well as literacy intervention programs, working with students who have anxiety and challenging behaviors, helping students who struggle reading, and strategies for core areas of math and science.

More than 130 CPS teachers worked with Districts' professional staff to design 32 curriculum projects in math and science while 86 CCHS teachers worked on 24 curriculum projects for the high school.

In addition to providing all school facilities with a comprehensive cleaning to prepare for the new school year, the Facilities and Maintenance team is engaged in multiple summer projects. These include a new gym ceiling at Peabody, converting office space to a new preschool classroom at Ripley, a new STEAM/Maker's space at the Ripley maintenance area, a new cross country track at CCHS, preparing ground at Sanborn for the doublewide modular classroom and work to prepare for the Knox Trail relocation.

The Districts continue efforts in the area of technology to ensure that students and teachers can utilize the state-of-the-art tools available to them. The key initiatives are security enhancements, improving network speed and creating device management practices. The Districts will start the new school year with a full secure network featuring open guest network following a year of planning and work.

Project enrollments for the new school year for both Districts remain stable as there are eight more students at CPS (2,080) than last year. Alcott will see a decrease of six students at 464, Thoreau is gaining two students at 458, Willard student population will decrease by 28 to 439, and the Middle School will increase by 40 to 719 students. CCHS enrollment will be down eight students to 1,280 bringing total CPS/CCRSD enrollment to 3,360 students. Historically, these enrollment levels change and will be finalized in early October.

2016 School Open Dates

The first day of school for all students is Wednesday, August 31; CCHS ninth grade orientation will be held on Tuesday, August 30th. School buildings will be open for teachers and staff on Monday, August 29 and Tuesday, August 30.

The School Committees Contact Information

You can link to the School Committees' emails on the Districts' home page at www.concordps.org. Or, you can email the Concord Public School Committee at concordschoolcommittee@concordps.org and the Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee at concordcarliseschoolcommittee@concordps.org. You can reach out to the Superintendent and the School Committees through the Your Voice Matters link on the Districts' home page.

School Committee meetings are open to the public and the public is encouraged to attend. The meetings are broadcast on CCTV and are available on demand at www.concordtv.org. The district web site (www.concordps.org) contains updated reports, presentations and information on meetings.