

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.

Regional School Committee Revises Annual Operating Budget Recommendation to Align with Concord Finance Committee

The Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee moved to revise their annual operating budget recommendation at the last business meeting held on February 14th. The revisions lower the FY18 operating budget recommendation and achieve alignment with the Concord Finance Committee recommendation. The final operating budget level will be decided at the Town Meetings in Carlisle and Concord this spring.

In early January, the Committee received updated actuarial estimates for the required contribution to the OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) account that indicated that the OPEB line item in the operating budget could be reduced by approximately \$114,500. Combined with a strategy to take advantage of the current interest rates by addressing the need to expand transportation services via a lease to own program for the required additional school buses and using a portion of the excess and deficiency account, the Regional School Committee was able to bring its recommendation into alignment with the Concord Finance Committee recommendation.

The revised annual budget recommendation of \$33,027,108 is consistent with recent annual budget increases and, if adopted, would make the five-year operating average increase 3.48%.

Prior to the revision, the Regional School Committee's proposed budget was inconsistent with the Finance Committee recommendation because it included funding to expand transportation services to allow for a later start time at CCHS. The School Committee was seeking to implement the plan developed by the High School Start Time Advisory Committee which recommended a later start time at CCHS of at least 30 minutes. The School Committee created the Advisory Committee after reviewing the research that details the adverse impacts on adolescent brain development, student health, and performance of early school start times and lack of sleep. The Regional School Committee made developing an appropriate plan for a later start time a priority during the current academic year in order to implement the new approach in September of 2017. Members were pleased to be able to accomplish the goal while recommending an operating budget that was consistent with the Finance Committee recommendation.

School Committees Approve Contract Agreement with New Superintendent

The Concord and Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committees voted to approve a contract agreement with Dr. Laurie Hunter who will serve as the new Superintendent of Concord Public School and Concord-Carlisle Regional School Districts beginning on July 1st.

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. Interested individuals are encouraged to sign up for the School Committees subscriber's list which is also on the District's web 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.