

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.

CCRSD Articles for Town Meetings; School Committee Budget is Consistent with Concord Finance Committee Recommendations

The Concord-Carlisle School Committee reviewed the two Articles to be placed before the voters at both Concord and Carlisle Town Meetings at the February 23rd business meeting. Article 13 is the operating budget for the Regional School District (CCRSD). Following a robust public process that started with the CCHS School Improvement Plan in the spring of 2015, the Regional School Committee voted to approve an operating budget proposal in December that proposes a 3.12% increase over the current year's budget. This is consistent with the Concord Finance Committee recommendation and, if approved, would bring the operating budget to \$26,608,381. (Concord's assessment would be \$20,719,713; Carlisle's assessment would be \$5,888,668)

The \$805,552 increase would make the annualized growth rate 2.75% for the five year period of FY13-FY17. The contractual and fixed cost growth drivers of the increase include a 3.4% increase for salary and benefits growth and a 1.6% non-employee growth which includes funding for a new school bus. This 5.5% growth in fixed costs assumes no new programs and a steady state of enrollment. The increase is offset with reductions in a number of areas, the largest being in special education tuitions and savings from building repairs, heating and water as a result of the new high school building.

For more detailed information on the proposed FY17 operating budget, please see the Budget Book posted on the district's website at www.concordpublicschools.org.

Article 14 for the Town Meetings addresses the remediation of the former private landfill located on CCRSD land adjacent to the new high school, otherwise known as the old student parking lot. This item requires an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Regional School Committee, majority votes at both Town Meetings and a majority vote on a ballot for both towns. The funding is required to comply with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection landfill closure process as outlined in state regulations and the state approved timeline.

District and CCHS Improvement Plan Mid-Year Updates

Superintendent Diana Rigby and CCHS Principal Peter Badalament provided updates on the status of the improvement plans for both CCHS and the CCRSD at the Regional School Committee's business meeting on February 23rd. Both presentations are available on the District's web site, www.concordpublicschools.net.

The School Committees Contact Information

You can link to the School Committees' emails on the Districts' home page at www.concordpublicschools.net. Or, you can email the Concord Public School Committee at

concordschoolcommittee@colonial.net and the Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee at concordcarliseschoolcommittee@colonial.net. 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.concordpublicschools.net) contains updated reports, presentations and information on meetings.