

Concord Public Schools and the Concord-Carlisle Regional School District are committed to educating all students to become independent lifelong learners, creative thinkers, caring citizens, and responsible contributors to our increasingly diverse global society. The core values and beliefs include academic excellence, an empathic and respectful community, professional collaboration, educational equity, and continuous improvement.

The School Committees and Superintendent are dedicated to achieving these goals 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.

FY 2015 Budget Approved: School Committees and Concord Finance Committee in Agreement

The School Committees voted to approve their FY2015 budget recommendations which meet the guidelines approved by the Concord Finance Committee. The operating budgets total \$32.4 million for Concord and \$24.6 million for Concord-Carlisle. The budgets are posted on the district web site and will be presented to citizens at Town Meeting and published in a budget book.

The School Committees and school administration work diligently to develop budgets that address student needs while sensitive to the impacts on taxpayers. The Concord Public Schools operating budget represents a 4.17% increase, with a 5-year average increase of 3.23%. The Regional District budget represents a 3.01% increase, with a 5-year average increase of 2.92%. Major cost drivers are teacher and staff salaries, special education expenses, increased enrollment, the technology replacement cycle and transportation costs.

Town-School Collaboration: Exploring the Knox Trail Land Acquisition

The voters of Concord approved the purchase of land at 55 and 55R Knox Trail in Acton at the December 4 town meeting. If the transaction is completed, the acquisition will represent the latest effort in School-Town collaborations that include working together to secure the Green Communities Grant, developing a fuel efficient vehicle policy and exploring the consolidation of fueling and maintenance options as part of the Town Consolidation Study.

For the school districts, the acquisition will provide a permanent base for an in-district student transportation operation that avoids impacts on residential neighborhoods while sharing land costs with the Town. It will also allow for negotiation of a multi-year labor contract with the Bus Drivers' Association.

The School Committees directed the administration to prepare bids for outsourcing bus operations as a back-up plan for next year in case complications prevent the purchase or use of the Knox Trail property.

Contact Information

The School Committees and Superintendent are committed to on-going public dialogue and to ensuring that residents of Carlisle and Concord are informed. 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 information on meetings and interested individuals can contact the Concord School Committee via email at concordschoolcommittee@colonial.net and the Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee at concordcarliseschoolcommittee@colonial.net. Individuals can also follow the Superintendent on twitter, @Concord_Super.