

School Committee Report

March 3, 2014

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.

Meeting Date Change: Please note that there will be joint meeting of the School Committees on Monday March 10 at 6:30pm in the Ripley Building.

2014-2015 School Calendar Vote on Monday March 10

The School Committees are reviewing options for the 2014-2015 school calendars. As the Committees review their calendar options, they are required to work within specific parameters set by state regulations and language contained in contracts with the Districts' collective bargaining units. In addition to the regulatory and contractual restrictions, members of the Committees are hearing concerns from students and families about the school calendar extending so late in June. The calendar can be an issue for many families as they consider educational programs, family plans, and summer camps that begin in late June.

The State requires a specific number of days and number of hours that students must be in school each year. Students must attend 180 days of school and teachers are required to work 185 days. All student and teacher days must be completed by June 30.

Language in the Concord Teachers Association (CTA) (K-8) and Concord-Carlisle Teachers Association (CCTA) (9-12) teachers' contracts stipulates that the District cannot require teachers to begin work until September 1 without consent of the unions. The CTA and CCTA currently have not agreed to begin prior to September 1.

Given these restrictions, the Concord and Concord-Carlisle School Committees are considering a number of limited options to address these concerns including the elimination of the February vacation. The Committees will vote to approve 2014-2015 school calendar at the March 10 meeting.

Parents are encouraged to contact the School Committees with questions, concerns, and comments.

Superintendent on Twitter and Your Voice Matters: K-12 Insight

Superintendent Rigby has created a Twitter account (@concord_super) and individuals can contact her through the Your Voice Matters link on the district's web site. Both measures were implemented to create more dialogue with the community.

The School Committees 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.