

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.

Town Meeting Reminder/School Budgets

Members of the School Committees want to remind residents that Concord Town Meeting is scheduled to begin on Sunday, May 4 at 2pm in the Concord-Carlisle Regional High School located at 500 Walden Street. The Carlisle Town Meeting is scheduled to begin on Monday, April 28 at 7pm in the Corey Building, 150 Church Street.

Concord's Town Meeting includes articles relating to the Concord Public School operating budget as well as the Regional District operating budget. The School Committees previously 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. Interested individuals can also view the information in a published 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.

School Committee Website Design Upgrade and Superintendent on Twitter

As part of the strategy to improve communications with citizens, Superintendent Rigby has created a Twitter account (concord_super) and the School Committee has re-designed its web page, www.concordpublicschools.net/school-committee, to facilitate use and information sharing. Both actions are elements in the plan launched by the School Committees this year to improve transparency and 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 or the Your Voice link on the District's home page at www.concordpublicschools.net.