

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.

CPS Successfully Addresses Achievement Gap at Alcott

One of the long-standing District goals for the Concord Public Schools is to close the achievement gap for its High Needs students. Two years ago, the District initiated a new program of support and enrichment for Kindergarten and First Grade students from Boston to address this issue. Alcott's Principal Sharon Young and METCO Program Director Aaron Joncas reported to the Concord School Committee that this new program has allowed the District to achieve an important element in this goal as Boston resident students in Kindergarten will meet end of year math and English Language Arts (ELA) benchmarks.

The program features extended day programming for Boston resident Kindergarten students that need extra support through collaboration with the Umbrella Community Arts Center. High Needs students in Grades 1 and 2 received tutoring at the Alcott and the professional staff works to identify and address gaps for students in ELA and math. Program staff includes three full-time METCO tutors who are placed in Kindergarten and Grade 1 to facilitate small groups in math and reading and to provide support in enrichment programming. For ELL support, there is one ELL teacher and one ELA curriculum specialist with ELL certification.

In addition to the work in the classrooms, the program provides cultural awareness training for adults working with the students with the goal of providing a richer and more comprehensive education for all students. Faculty, support staff and transportation staff all participate in the professional development.

Evidence of Success includes:

- Alcott achieved Level 1 Status
- For Boston resident students in Kindergarten, 100% will meet end of year math benchmarks and 88%-100% will meet end of year ELA benchmarks
- For Boston resident students in Grade 1, 88% will meet end of year ELA and math benchmarks
- For Kindergarten students receiving ELL support, 80% will meet end of year math benchmarks and 100% will meet ELA benchmarks
- For Grade 1 students receiving ELL support, 88% will meet end of year ELA and math benchmarks

New Concord Teachers' Association Agreement Approved by Concord School Committee

The Concord School Committee voted to approve the new agreement with the Concord Teachers' Association for 2016-2019 as well as the Successor Agreement for 2015-2016 at its last business meeting on April 12.

Highlights of the agreement include salary increases of 2.25% in year one followed by an increase of 2% in both years two and three and double steps to achieve salary parity with CCHS

teachers. In addition to the wage adjustments, the contract contains language regarding more professional collaboration time with weekly early release days and when teachers report to begin the academic year that is dependent upon Labor Day.

School Committee members noted that the negotiation process was unique as all sessions were open to the public. They also praised the work of former School Committee members Kathi Snook and Jenn Munn as well as Kelly McCausland, Director of Human Resources and John Flaherty, Deputy Superintendent for Finance and Operations

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.

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.