

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.

New CPS School Calendar for 2016-2017

The Concord School Committee approved a new school calendar for grades K-8 for the 2016-2017 school year at the business meeting held on May 10. The new calendar addresses concepts that were included in the recently adopted contract with Concord Teachers' Association (CTA) while meeting statutory guidelines established by the Commonwealth for number of school days and hours of instruction. One of the key factors shaping the schedule was the goal of allowing teachers more collaboration time which was discussed during the contract negotiations with the CTA. The collaboration time will be achieved by implementing early release days for students throughout the year but the schedule accomplishes the goal without reducing instruction time.

In terms of the statutory guidelines, Massachusetts requires school committees to create a schedule that includes at least 185 school days. In addition, the calendar is required to ensure that elementary students receive a minimum of 900 hours of structured learning time in each school year. For high school, the minimum number of hours for structured learning is 990 hours and kindergarten students must receive 425 hours.

Highlights of the new CPS calendar include a change in the start and finish of the school day for grades K-5 which will now run from 9am to 3:30pm on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Grades K-5 will have early release for students every Tuesday and the day will run from 9am to 12:30pm. Additionally, K students will also be dismissed at 12:30 on Thursdays.

Teachers will report to school for professional development days on August 29 and the first day of classes for students will occur on Wednesday, August 31. The last day of school will be on June 20th which includes five emergency days. The calendar includes 185 school days and 903 hours of instructional time.

Rose Bush Ceremony for Retirees

The Rose Bush Ceremony to honor retirees from the Concord Public School District will occur on Thursday, May 19 at 4pm in the Willard School.

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.