

The School Committees Report

The School Committees and Superintendent are dedicated to achieving their educational 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.

Preliminary FY 2016 Budget Released

The School Committee released the preliminary budgets for the Concord and Concord-Carlisle Regional School Districts. These budgets have been reviewed by the School Committees who will be working with the Finance Committees from both towns to finalize the draft budgets that will be presented to the town meetings.

For the Regional School District, the draft budget is \$31,696,976 which represents increases to the operating budget of \$1,570,465, debt service of \$4,840,208 and an increase in Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) of \$325,000. The FY 2015 budget was \$28,118,127. If adopted, the preliminary budget level would result in a five year operating budget average increase of 3.21 percent.

In order to offset the impact of debt service and OPEB increases to tax payers, a series of budget cuts totaling \$1,513,171 were proposed for computer hardware, network infrastructure, utilities, legal fees, capital outlay and maintenance, insurance as well as building maintenance.

In addition to debt service and OPEB, other budget increases included special education contracted services, transportation, salary increases for collective bargaining units, and an assistant principal position.

For the Concord Public Schools, the preliminary FY2016 budget is \$35,684,377 which represents an increase in the operating budget of \$2,202,196. Key budget drivers include special education tuitions, collective bargaining unit salary increases, computer hardware, instructional materials and supplies, and special education transportation. The most significant budget decrease would occur in the special education out of district tuition for grades k-5.

If adopted, the preliminary budget level would represent a five year operating budget average increase of 4.58 percent.

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 Matters link on the District's home page at www.concordpublicschools.net.