

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.

School Committee Community Coffee on October 28

One element in the School Committees' plan to ensure a robust public dialogue regarding the budget and policy matters is the regularly scheduled School Committee Coffees. These forums are designed to allow more feedback, questions, information sharing and discussion than is possible at the School Committee business meetings. The next **School Committee Coffee** is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 28 at 7pm in the Alcott Elementary School cafeteria.**

Building the FY2017 CPS Budget: Cost Growth Analysis

The Concord School Committee continued their work to build the FY 2017 budget at their latest meeting. As part of that work, the Committee reviewed cost growth analysis and different aspects of the operating budget.

The Committee is working with a preliminary budget of \$35,660,111 which represents a 3.23% increase from the current budget. This budget would meet the School Committee goal of developing a budget that meets the needs of students and is sensitive to the impact on taxpayers. The preliminary budget is consistent with CPS budget growth since 2008 and would be below the 3.41% average increase during that time period.

The major cost driver for the operating budget is teacher salary costs which account for 52% of the operating budget. In addition to regular salary earnings, there is a \$416,297 line item for teacher stipends for leadership positions, coaching and longevity. With the anticipated salary adjustments, the Committee is faced with very little room for discretionary budget decisions.

The second largest element of the operating budget is special education which represents 22.5% of the total budget. Special Education services are mandated by the federal and state governments and the cost drivers include out of district tuitions, transportation services, specialized equipment, as well as district staffing and training

While the Special Education budgets have been volatile during the last decade due to the unpredictability of state reimbursements, the School Committee and Administration are currently planning for a relatively stable budget for FY2017.

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@colonial.net and the Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee at concordcarliseschoolcommittee@colonial.net. 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.