

## **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.

## **Welcome to the 2016-2017 School Year and Back To School Nights**

The first day of school for all students was held on Wednesday, August 31; this was preceded by a ninth grade orientation that welcomed 303 ninth graders to CCHS on Tuesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>.

On Monday the 29<sup>th</sup>, Superintendent Rigby and School Committee Chairs Bill Fink and Wally Johnston along with CCTA/CTA Presidents Peter Atlas and Merrie Najimy kicked off the new year by addressing K12 teachers who gathered at CCHS. This event featured a keynote presentation from Dr. Arthur Eisenkraft of the UMass Boston Center of Science and Math in Context (COSMIC). His inspiring presentation centered on interdisciplinary education and STEAM and his slides are posted on the Superintendent's page on the district website for your information.

Back to School Nights will occur throughout the month of September; Willard is on September 7, Alcott and Thoreau on September 14, CCHS on September 15, CMS-Peabody on September 22 and CMS-Sanborn on September 29.

## **District Enrollments**

Student enrollments for the new school year for both Districts remain stable as there are 24 more students at CPS (2,096) than last year. Alcott will see a decrease of two students at 468, Thoreau is gaining three students at 459, Willard's student population will decrease by 17 to 450, and CMS will increase by 40 to 719 students. CCHS enrollment will be down 10 students to 1,278 bringing total CPS/CCRSD enrollment to 3,374 students. Historically, these enrollment levels change and will be finalized in early October.

## **2016 Summer Programs, Projects, Professional Development**

The formal academic year may have ended in June, but both Districts remained busy during the summer with summer schools, professional development programs and curriculum development projects.

The Districts have created a comprehensive support system for students including summer learning opportunities. Examples include the Concord Public Schools (CPS) four-week summer school session which features 26 CPS teachers, CPS tutors, and 16 volunteer high school and college students providing instruction to more than 200 students. Students are instructed in reading, writing, and math in morning classes and participate in Concord Recreation programs in the afternoon. At CMS, there was a math enrichment program for Boston students (grades 4-8) to improve math achievement through project-based learning and the CCHS offered the "Algebridge" program for incoming ninth grade students. The services are provided at no charge to families and better prepare students for the school year.

Teachers participated in professional development programs and worked on curriculum projects. The Concord Teaching Fellows program featured CPS teachers providing instruction to fellow teachers and more than 300 teachers participated in 32 professional development courses. Courses included instruction on technology tools in the classroom as well as literacy intervention programs, behavior intervention programs and new of math and science programs.

More than 130 CPS teachers worked in grade level teams with curriculum specialists to design 32 curriculum projects in math and science while 86 CCHS teachers worked with department colleagues on 24 curriculum projects for the high school.

In addition to providing all school facilities with a comprehensive cleaning to prepare for the new school year, the Facilities and Maintenance team led by Facilities Manager, Brian Schlegel, engaged in multiple summer projects. These include a new gym ceiling at Peabody, converting office space to a new preschool classroom at Ripley, a new STEAM/Maker's space at the Ripley maintenance area, a new cross country track at CCHS, preparing ground at Sanborn for the doublewide modular classroom and work to prepare for the Knox Trail relocation.

The Districts continue efforts in the area of technology to ensure that students and teachers can utilize the state-of-the-art tools available to them. The key initiatives are security enhancements, improving network speed and creating device management practices. The Districts will start the new school year with a full secure network featuring open guest network following a year of planning and work.

The information technology team worked with the business office to increase efficiency while moving to a more sustainable model by replacing paper files with digital files. This included a successful summer pilot program that converted time sheets for hourly employees from paper to computer based. That program will allow the Districts to report the number of hours worked by employees as required by state and federal regulations.

### **The School Committees Contact Information**

You can link to the School Committees' emails on the Districts' home page at [www.concordps.org](http://www.concordps.org). Or, you can email the Concord Public School Committee at [concordschoolcommittee@concordps.org](mailto:concordschoolcommittee@concordps.org) and the Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee at [concordcarliseschoolcommittee@concordps.org](mailto: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](http://www.concordtv.org). The district web site ([www.concordps.org](http://www.concordps.org)) contains updated reports, presentations and information on meetings.