

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.

Concord Middle School Feasibility Committee

The Concord School Committee is seeking interested individuals to serve on the Concord Middle School Feasibility Committee. Specifically, the School Committee is searching for two or three community members who have expertise and experience in one of four areas that include architecture, construction project management, sustainability planning, and familiarity with Massachusetts School Building Authority regulations and expectations.

Once formed, the Feasibility Committee will provide the School Committee with recommendations regarding capital repairs, renovations and rehabilitation of the existing buildings as well as potential options for new buildings. As it undertakes this charge, the Feasibility Committee will engage members of the community as part of the process to ensure that all stakeholders are able to provide input.

The notion to create the Feasibility Committee was part of the Concord Public School five year capital plan that was approved at the 2016 Concord Town Meeting. Interested individuals are encouraged to email the School Committee at concordschoolcommittee@concordps.org.

Parent Survey

The results of a recent Parent Survey were shared at the latest business meeting of the Concord School Committee. The survey was conducted last June which was sent out from each school site and it was also available on the District website. The survey consisted of 24 questions and there were 699 responses. All responses were anonymous.

The questions covered school environments, professional staff including principals and teachers, and communication. Overall, the results were very positive as more than 90% of students feel safe at school, approximately 85% of elementary parents responded that the learning environment at their child's school was excellent and approximately 85% of parents are satisfied with the learning experience at their school site. More than 90% of parents believe that the teachers are helpful and responsive.

The survey included an opportunity for open comments which allowed parents to voice their opinion on matters not specifically asked in the survey. Themes from the open comments emerged at both the elementary and middle school. For the elementary level, the themes included: wonderful school, principal, staff and teachers, hope for an elementary foreign language program, less/no homework, and more challenging and creative lessons/projects as well as more academic challenges for top students.

The responses from middle school parents included themes such as concerns about the poor physical condition of the building, the teachers and staff are wonderful, less homework, the need

for differentiated instruction, more individual communication from the school on issues such as grades, schedule and behavior and a hope that all teachers use the Parent Portal.

The full results of the survey can be found on the District web site, www.concordps.org.

Back To School Nights

Back to School Nights are scheduled for CMS-Peabody on September 22 and CMS-Sanborn on September 29.

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.