

## **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.

## **Public Participation Opportunities in Superintendent Search**

Members of the School Committees are urging residents to participate in the public process associated with the Superintendent search. In order to facilitate public participation, the School Committees designed a process that includes multiple ways for individuals to have their voice heard. Two important opportunities to participate include public forums and the on-line survey.

The public forums schedules are listed below:

**November 14th 7:00-8:30pm in the CCHS Auditorium**

**November 15th 10:00-11:30am in Ripley Conference Room 4**

The on-line survey will be available starting on **November 7** and will remain open until **November 30**. It can be accessed at [www.concordps.org](http://www.concordps.org).

## **Concord Public Schools Budget Development for FY2018**

One of the most labor intensive annual tasks for the School Committees and Administration is building and analyzing the district budgets. The Concord School Committee reviewed a first draft of the CPS operating budget for FY18 at their last business meeting.

The preliminary FY18 operating budget is \$36,944,716 which is 3.61% higher than the current fiscal year. This level is consistent with historical projected cost increases since FY08; during this past decade the combined average annual operating budget increase is 3.41%.

The largest element in the operating budget is salaries which will account for approximately 82% of the operating budget. Increases resulting from the existing contract with the Concord Teachers Association will total \$983,348 which accounts for an increase of 2.8% above the existing operating budget. The draft budget funds three new K-5 foreign language teachers as these positions were identified as a priority by the school site processes as well as the School Committee, the Administration and parent groups.

In order to offset some of the increases in fixed expenses, the draft calls for reductions in special education tuitions, transportation and building services. The budget also reflects savings in some utility costs due to the recent investment and installation of sustainable, high efficiency boilers at the Peabody and Sanborn buildings.

Releasing the draft budget is one step in the overall budgeting process that started with each individual school site working with principals, teachers, staff, and parents to develop the school improvement plans. The Superintendent and the Deputy Superintendent work with the School Committees to develop the budget based on those plans and present those proposals to the Concord and Carlisle Finance Committees for their review. Eventually, the budgets are addressed by the public at Town Meetings. Throughout this process, the School Committees engage with the residents by encouraging them to attend regularly scheduled business meetings

and by presenting at Parent Teacher Group meetings and at regularly scheduled School Committee Community Coffees.

### **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.