

The School Committees Report: FY19 Budget Development Begins with Extensive Review Process 10-20-2017

Superintendent Laurie Hunter and members of the School Committees recently met with the Concord Finance Committee and outlined their plan to develop the FY19 budget.

An element in the Superintendent's entry plan was to conduct an extensive review of the district budgets and this effort has included reviewing the FY17 budget and costs while simultaneously monitoring the current year's (FY18) budget and expenses as a means to identify trends to help generate projections. She has also met with the Administrative teams from each school site to understand all aspects of spending at each level in the District. Working with the School Committees' new budget subcommittee, together they are working to determine the needs for the 2018-2019 school year which will help form the budget draft for FY19.

A key item of interest for the School Committees and Superintendent is the programmatic success and costs associated with the initiatives adopted and implemented this year such as the later start time at the high school, the middle school Latin Initiative, and K-5 Spanish teachers.

Following this work, a priority FY19 budget draft will be presented in November and there will be a public hearing on the budget which will be one of many opportunities for the public to have input and comment. The goal is to create a fiscally responsible budget that reflects the core District values of excellence and equity.

Looking beyond FY19, the Superintendent and School Committees will be undertaking a strategic planning effort in the spring that will be informed by what is learned in the Superintendent's entry process which includes extensive dialogue with teachers, administrators and staff at each school site, public forums, and the aforementioned study of current and past budgets. The strategic planning process will identify priorities for the Districts. In order to ensure that priorities are reflected in future budgets, the Superintendent plans to adopt a zero-based budgeting model starting on the FY20 budget.

Reminder: Conferences/No School for CPS K-5 on Nov 7 & CCHS on Nov. 9

A reminder to parents that conferences are scheduled for CPS K-5 on Tuesday, November 7th which means there is no school for students attending Alcott, Thoreau and Willard. For CCHS, the conferences are scheduled for Thursday, November 9th and there will be no school for grades 9-12 on that day.

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. Interested individuals are encouraged to sign up for the School Committees subscriber's list which is also on the District's web page.