

## **The School Committees Report: CCHS Student Representatives on the School Committee; New Electric Bus**

### **Concord School Committee Approves Purchase of a New Electric Bus**

The Concord Public School Committee voted to award a contract to Lion Bus of Canada for the purchase of a new electric bus at its meeting on October 27th. The vote is the latest step by the School Committees and Superintendent Hunter to implement a comprehensive approach to environmental sustainability for the school districts and to do their part in helping the Town of Concord achieve its environmental goals.

The purchase was facilitated by a grant that will cover 80% of the purchase price. Town of Concord Sustainability Director Kate Hanley helped the Concord Public School (CPS) leadership team secure the Mass DEP grant which is funded by the Volkswagen Diesel Emissions Environmental Mitigation Trust.

The School Committees and Superintendent are planning to utilize the same grant to purchase two more electric buses. These additional purchases are possible because Concord residents approved funding to cover the costs not covered by the grant via a Town Meeting article that was intended “to accelerate the transition to a clean and healthy school bus fleet.” The Town Meeting action also allows for the installation of appropriate fueling infrastructure.

The School Committees and district leaders have been exploring transitioning to the use of electric buses during the last couple of years. Technology improvements in the buses, access to grant funding, and some improvements to pricing are now making the purchase and use of electric buses more feasible. In 2016, CPS was the first district in the Commonwealth to secure an entirely electric full-sized school bus which was also accomplished through a state grant. Experience with that bus and charging station has informed the District’s current approach to the purchase and use of these vehicles as well as fueling technology.

Committee members were quick to offer their appreciation to Kate Hanley, Concord’s Sustainability Director, and Brian Foulds, who drafted the Town Meeting article, and the many other residents and public employees who are working to help the schools and Towns of Concord and Carlisle become more sustainable.

### **Concord-Carlisle High School (CCHS) Student School Committee Representatives**

Each school year, two students from CCHS serve as student representatives on the Regional School Committee. This year’s representatives are seniors Linda Xu and Amy Tedeschi.

The Student Representatives provide School Committee members with updates of activities and current events at CCHS. They also engage with Committee members regarding policies and share anecdotal information regarding how policies are being perceived and experienced by the student body at the CCHS. The School Committee, the Superintendent, and CCHS Principal are committed to providing students with a voice in decisions and this principle is consistent with the portion of the District mission to educate students to be caring citizens and contributor to society. The dialogue with students also allows elected Committee members to share their rationale behind the policies as well as their goals for the student experience.

Addressing her role on the Committee, CCHS Senior Amy Tedeschi said, “I joined the school committee because I wanted to dedicate myself to represent the students not only in my grade but in the whole school and the whole district. I wanted to be able to hear the important discussions heard there and give a voice to the students on a greater scale.”

Linda Xu stated, “I’m a senior at Concord Carlisle high school. It’s my second year doing student senate

and I originally joined in order to work alongside fellow students, administration, and school committee to help make improvements to our school so we can all enjoy our time together.”

### **Sign up for School Committee News**

Individuals who are interested in knowing more about the role of the School Committees as well as receiving the latest updates on school budgets and informational events are encouraged to enroll in the "School Committee News" Subscriber List. These updates will include timely information such as meeting dates and agendas, minutes, event announcements, and the School Committee Report. Individuals can sign up at [www.concordps.org/school\\_committee\\_subscriber\\_list](http://www.concordps.org/school_committee_subscriber_list). Individuals interested in the Concord Middle School Building Committee (a Town of Concord Committee) can find updates and all relevant materials at <https://www.concordps.org/cms-building-project/cms-building-committee-updates/>

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





Linda XU



Amy Tedeschi