

The School Committees Report: FY22 Budget Timeline, Asymptomatic Pooled COVID Testing, Cultural Competency and Anti-Racism Professional Development, CCHS Athletics Season Update

Cultural Competency and Anti-Racism Professional Development

The February 9th Joint School Committee meeting featured the latest update on the cultural competency anti-racism initiatives currently underway as elements of the Districts' strategic plan. This update featured the professional development program and opportunities for faculty. Similar to previous anti-racism dialogues with the School Committee, Dr. Paula Martin, the Districts' cultural competency consultant, and METCO Director Andrew Nyamekye presented at the meeting along with Kristen Herbert, Director of Teaching and Learning.

The Districts are working to implement and expand ongoing professional development for all staff with a focus on culturally proficiency and inclusive practices to meet the individual learning needs for each student. There are both workshops for all faculty and more than 65 workshops, courses, and group sessions. The all faculty workshops feature guest speakers and there is school-based training during monthly faculty meetings. Other training is offered to faculty and staff who can choose individual pathways that develop skills, build understanding, and heighten awareness. The Districts also offered the "Can We Talk" series for the adult and community education program so parents and interested community members can access a session which is designed to teach individuals how to have difficult conversations about race.

Previous cultural competency and anti-racism updates to the School Committees have included the Districts' efforts to hire and maintain a diverse staff, increasing cultural responsive curriculum, partnering with students and families from Boston, and developing a shared understanding of what diversity means in the Concord and Concord-Carlisle public schools and developing procedures for applying this understanding.

FY22 Budget Timeline

District leaders previewed aspects of the FY22 operating budgets with the School Committees at the business meeting held on February 9th. As part of that dialogue, the timeline for approving the budgets was outlined that includes:

- February 23 Superintendent to present School Committees with recommended budgets
- March 9 School Committees to hold public hearings on the FY22 budgets
- March 19 Concord Town Meeting Warrant Articles are due
- June 13 Concord Town Meeting
- TBA Carlisle Town Meeting

The budgets will be presented to the Finance Committees in Carlisle and Concord sometime in March.

Pooled COVID Testing

Concord and Concord-Carlisle School Districts both opted to take advantage of the funding offered by the Commonwealth's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Department of Public Health to implement Pooled PCR COVID Testing Programs. The program is already underway for staff, and reports have been that it is being successfully implemented. Prior to implementing, District leaders explored potential interest by teachers, staff, and families as well as logistical plans and impacts on staffing and district finances.

CCHS Athletic Season Update

CCHS Athletic Director Aaron Joncas joined the School Committees at the February 9th meeting to share an update on MIAA rule adjustments and CCHS athletic seasons. What is being referred to as the Fall 2

Season will begin on February 25th and will end on April 24th. It will consist of Cheerleading, Football, Volleyball and Fall 2 Track. There will be competitive pods and no state tournaments. CCHS will compete in a pod consisting of Acton-Boxborough, Lincoln-Sudbury, Newton South, and Westford Academy. Protocols will be similar to the previous seasons; these include no locker rooms, no fans at indoor facilities, all athletes will be required to wear a mask and distance six feet apart while not actively competing, and all coaches and team personnel will be required to wear a mask and distance appropriately.

Upcoming School Committee Meetings:

Tuesday, February 23 Joint Meeting
Tuesday, March 9 Joint Meeting
Tuesday, March 23 Joint Meeting

All meetings begin at 5pm and zoom links are available on the District website, www.concordps.org. Minuteman Media Network videos all meetings which are available for viewing at either <https://concordma.gov/2335/Minuteman-Media-Network-MMN>, or at www.concordps.org/schoolcommittee/.

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. 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

Concord School Committee Alexa Anderson, Court Booth (Chair), Heather Bout (Vice-Chair of CCRSC), Fatima Mezdad, Cynthia Rainey (Vice-Chair)

Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee is comprised of the five Concord School Committee members as well as two Carlisle representatives, Eva Mostoufi, and Sara Wilson (Chair, Regional School Committee)

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.