

The School Committees Report: FY22 Operating Budgets & School Calendar

Superintendent's FY22 Operating Budget Recommendations Shared with School Committees

Superintendent Hunter and Jared Stanton, Director of Finance and Operations, shared their FY22 Operating Budget recommendations for each District at the School Committees' business meeting held on February 23rd. The budget recommendations use a zero-based budget approach and include the assumption that students and teachers will be back in school full time for the 2021-2022 school year.

For CPS, the recommended budget level is \$41,805,761 which represents a 2.52% increase above the FY21 budget. Examples of budget drivers include increases in teachers' salaries (\$693,769), software and hardware costs (\$163,708), two new bus leases (\$63,903) and utilities (\$35,122). Also, the costs for substitutes and field trips were added back to the budget as the District didn't employ substitutes during the current year and field trips were not possible; both because of COVID conditions.

Budget increases were offset by savings in special education tuitions (\$301,730) as more students are now receiving specialized educational services within the District, a reduction in CASE transportation costs (\$158,257), and savings from the early retirement program (\$46,854).

The operating budget recommendation for Concord-Carlisle Regional School District (CCRS) is \$35,781,033 which represents a 2.35% increase above the current year level. Similar to Concord, the CCRSD budget drivers include increases in teachers' salaries (\$660,122), technology costs with hardware and software (\$129,255), new bus leases (\$51,653), and funding for an additional nurse. Savings offsetting the increases include special education tuitions (\$223,275), lower debt payments (\$159,791), and less spending on curriculum textbooks (\$33,474).

In addition to the discussions held on the 23rd, the Committees will be examining the budgets at their meetings on March 2nd and March 9th. The Committees will hold public hearings on the budgets on March 9th and Committee members urged interested individuals to participate in the public hearing or to submit comments, questions, and suggestions in the public comment portion of the March 2nd meeting or via email at concordschoolcommittee@concordps.org.

School Calendar for 2021-22

Members of the School Committee received a recommendation from the Calendar Committee for the 2021-22 school year for a first reading. Highlights of the draft calendar include a first day of school for grades 1-12 on August 30th and Kindergarten would start on September 1st. There are the traditional recesses in late December, February, and April with the last day of classes occurring on June 13th. For Concord elementary and middle school, Wednesdays would be early release for students.

The Committees will continue to review the draft calendar at their upcoming meeting on March 2nd. The draft calendar can be viewed on the Districts' website on the agenda for the February 23rd meeting, <https://www.concordps.org/school-committee/school-committee-meetings/>.

Upcoming School Committee Meetings:

Tuesday, March 2	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 of CPS)

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.