

## **The School Committees Report: Reducing Regional Assessments, Superintendent Evaluation, Juneteenth, School Committee and District Leadership News**

### **CCRSB Budget Surplus and Reducing Regional Assessments**

As part of closing out FY21, the Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee voted to use a budget surplus to address key District goals including reducing assessments for each town and its residents. At the last business meeting of FY21, Committee members voted to apply \$300,000 to reduce the assessments to Carlisle and Concord. This will reduce the assessments for the upcoming fiscal year for each town.

In addition, members advanced their goals to be fiscally responsible and to create a more sustainable bus fleet by purchasing an electric bus; it was purchased in a manner that allows for approximately 70% of the cost to be reimbursed via Chapter 71 funds from the state. New MacBooks were purchased for incoming first year high school students to ensure that outdated devices were not being distributed to students; maintaining a regular cycle of updating technology is another strategy used by the School Committees to ensure fiscal responsibility for the districts and towns. Surplus funds were also used to pre-pay some special education tuitions for FY22.

### **New Chair for Concord School Committee**

Members of the Concord School Committee elected Cynthia Rainey to serve as Chair of the Committee and Alexa Anderson to serve as Vice-Chair. Each will serve in those positions until a new Committee is seated following next spring's Town Meeting.

### **Superintendent Evaluation**

The School Committees conducted their annual evaluation of Superintendent Hunter and discussed the results at their last business meeting in June. The evaluation included one-on-one meetings with School Committee members and the use of an evaluation tool provided by the state's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Members gave the Superintendent high grades based on her goals for student learning, instructional leadership, management and operations, family and community engagement, professional culture, professional practice and, district improvement. They also praised her work to navigate the Districts through the pandemic.

Committee members comments in the Summary Narrative included:

“Dr. Hunter is a tremendous leader of our districts. She is, no doubt, a leader in her field and is regarded highly by all stakeholders in the district. Her commitment to the goals, values, and mission of the district – and above all the best interest of students -- guides her daily work. Dr. Hunter courageously leads by example and inspires her staff to strive for excellence. She maintains high standards as well as the intrinsic integrity that defines her.”

“Dr. Hunter is a strong, decisive, and smart leader who has steered our schools effectively in the face of a health crisis. Dr. Hunter rose to the myriad challenges of the public health emergency this year, and rallied staff, faculty and community partners to respond. That accomplishment, by the Superintendent and all district employees under her direction, cannot be overstated”

“Dr. Hunter is a leader among leaders. She has established herself as a true leader not only of our schools, but of our entire community. We are unspeakably fortunate to have her.”

### **New METCO Director and District Leader Title Changes**

The Concord and Concord-Carlisle School Committees vote to approve Central Administrator Title Changes for Kristen Herbert whose new title is Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning and Jared Stanton whose title will now be Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations

In addition, Superintendent Hunter announced that Heidi Harris has been hired to be the new METCO Director for Concord and Concord-Carlisle School Districts. METCO (Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity) is a voluntary integration program that allows students who reside in Boston and Springfield to attend suburban public schools. This academic year marks the 52nd year that CPS has participated in the METCO program. The current METCO Director, Andrew Nyamekye, has accepted the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Position for CPS and CCRSD.

**Upcoming School Committee Meeting:**

Wednesday, July 28 Joint Meeting 8am

Zoom links are available on the District website, [www.concordps.org](http://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/](http://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](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**

**Concord School Committee** Alexa Anderson (Vice-Chair of CPS), Court Booth, Tracey Marano, Fatima Mezdad, Cynthia Rainey (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)

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