

The School Committees Report: Vaccination Policy for CPS-CCRSD Staff, School Committees and Superintendent Annual Goal Setting, and CPS School Committee Member Departure

Vaccination Policy Adopted by School Committees

As part of their on-going efforts to maintain a safe environment during the pandemic, members of the Concord and Concord-Carlisle School Committees voted to adopt a policy that mandates vaccines for all school staff. The new policy sets a deadline of October 17, 2021 for staff to provide proof of vaccination.

This action supplements other policies and procedures such as the mask policy that are recommended by the CDC and other public health experts to create the safest possible environment for all students, teachers, and staff as full time in school learning resumes.

The policy allows for medical and religious exemptions with the appropriate documentation. Individuals that are unvaccinated will be required to participate in pooled testing and to wear a mask at all times until notified by the appropriate District. As new CDC guidelines are issued regarding booster vaccines, staff will be required to provide proof that they have received those doses by a deadline to be determined.

Employees who are not vaccinated or approved for an exemption as of October 17, 2021 shall be granted an unpaid leave of absence for the 2021-22 school year or until which time they are fully vaccinated and approved by the district for return.

School Committee Goals for 2021-2022 School Year

The School Committees held their annual workshop to begin their goal setting process for the current academic year. Context for their goals include the current five-year strategic plan for the Districts and on-going efforts to provide the school communities with appropriate protocols and guidelines to ensure a healthy and safe environment while bringing students, teachers, and staff back to school sites. Members of the Committees discussed manners to understand all the impacts of the pandemic including areas such as learning, social-emotional tolls on students and staff, as well as positive take-aways such as new uses of technology in teaching and learning.

Members discussed goals such as producing fiscally sustainable budgets that support the core values and mission of CPS and CCRSD, reviewing and revising policy manuals, supporting and evaluating the Superintendent, and ensuring that the Committees maintain their strong commitment to community engagement, communication and listening through all available channels, and transparency in all their dialogues and actions. Other goals will include conducting negotiations with bargaining units as needed, examining the special education services available and what might be needed in the future, improving school committee culture and efficiency, and, for the Concord School Committee, working with the Middle School Building Committee to represent the educational plan and District interests.

The goals will be finalized at an upcoming meeting of the School Committees and will be available on the Districts' web site.

Superintendent Goals for 2021-2022 School Year

Members of the School Committees and Superintendent Hunter discussed annual goals for the Superintendent at their last business meeting held on September 14. Similar to the School Committees, the goals are aligned with initiatives in the Districts' five-year strategic plan and reflect the continued need to monitor health and safety during the pandemic.

Key areas of concentration include student learning goals, a special education needs assessment, reviewing and developing literacy instructions with a focus on phonics, prioritizing programs for student well-being, communicating with all stake holders including families, teachers, and staff, communicating important public health and COVID related updates, developing a budget that reflects District priorities while remaining sensitive to the financial impact on residents, further the work in anti-racist and cultural competency practices of the districts to address issues of racism, inequity, and exclusionary practices, and continue working with the professional team and Concord Middle School Building Committee through the remainder of schematic design and into design development while preparing for instructional use of a new school.

The goals will be finalized at an upcoming school committee meeting and are available on the District's website, www.concordps.org.

Fatima Mezdad

School Committees member Fatima Mezdad recently announced that she has an opportunity to pursue a master's degree and that will prevent her from continuing to serve on the Committees. Following her resignation, her colleagues on the Committees thanked her for her service and wished her the best moving forward.

Upcoming School Committee Meetings:

Joint Meeting on October 12 at 6:30pm; Ripley Building, conference room 4

Zoom links are also available for these meetings on the Districts' 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 (Vice-Chair of CPS), Court Booth, Tracey Marano, 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. Or, you can email the Concord Public School Committee at concordschoolcommittee@concordps.org and the Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee at concordcarliseschoolcommittee@concordps.org. Individuals 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.