

The School Committees Report: School Improvement Plans, DESE Face Mask Policy Extended, and Meeting Schedules

School site leaders presented updated School Improvement Plans to the School Committees at their last business meeting. Each School Improvement Plan is consistent with the Districts' Strategic Plan and is developed and approved by the individual School Advisory Councils that are comprised of Principals, teachers, staff, community members, parents, and students as is age appropriate. Traditionally, the plans are shared with the School Committees in the spring, but the plans were revisited this year because of COVID and the changing environments when the plans were initially formed in the spring.

The consistent themes in the plans include maintaining academic excellence, providing students with multiple pathways to success, creating an inclusive culture including cultural proficiency and awareness, ensuring student wellbeing to help ensure success, and cultivating an innovative environment. Each plan outlines actions and programs that are designed to ensure that those goals are met. This year also included updates on student assessments that meant to ensure that students did not have learning loss due to pandemic related school environments. The Districts' Principals also outlined their on-going collaborative efforts that include sharing best practices and piloting programs at different school sites.

State's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Mask Requirements Extended into January of 2022

The Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education announced that the mask requirements for all students and staff at the state's public schools has been extended to at least January 15, 2022. As part of that announcement, the Commissioner stated that DESE will continue to work with medical experts and state health officials to evaluate the mask requirement beyond January 15th.

The Concord and Concord-Carlisle School Committees also adopted a face mask and covering policy for both Districts prior to the current school year consistent with the commitment by the Committees and District leaders to provide the safest possible environment for the return to full time instruction at school properties. The Districts have also continued other COVID related protocols including the pooled testing program funded by the state and recommended by Concord Public Health officials.

Upcoming School Committee and Concord Middle School Building Committee Meetings:

Concord Middle School Building Committee Meets November 5 at 7:30am

Joint Meeting on November 9 at 6:30pm

Concord Middle School Building Committee Meets November 12 at 7:30am

Joint Meeting on November 30 at 6:30pm

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/. For Concord Middle School Building Committee meetings, zoom links are available at <https://www.cmsbuildingproject.org/>.

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, and 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.