

The School Committees Report: World Language Update; Budget and Warrant Article Recommendations

World Language Update

World Language department chairs and teachers ranging from elementary to high school joined members of the School Committees at their latest meeting to provide an overview of the language courses available to students in the Concord and Concord-Carlisle High School Districts.

The State's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has stated that they "believe that all Massachusetts students should acquire linguistic and cultural proficiency in at least one language in addition to English. Proficiency in one or more world languages will empower all students to use languages other than English to tell their own stories, understand the stories of others, and engage with their communities".

Iolanda Volpe, who taught Spanish for more than 20 years at CCHS and now works with the K-5 teachers on the Spanish curriculum, presented information about research that has revealed other benefits of importance of studying another language including the growing global nature and interconnections of people from all areas of the world. Language is a bridge to the culture of the people who speak it and learning a language leads to the appreciation of other cultures and promotes global understanding and cultural competency. She also stated that in the business world, or when traveling, those who know another language have an advantage over those who don't.

Having world language classes available to all elementary students is a major positive differentiator for the Concord Public Schools as it is one of a very few districts in Massachusetts that offer this benefit. Spanish classes are held twice a week in the elementary schools. In teaching at all levels of the Districts, the curriculum approach features a comprehensive model which ensures that students learn to speak, listen, write, and read the language.

The entire presentation is available on the Minuteman Media Network website, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6M48IkUz8b0&t=3144s>, and the segment begins at approximately 48 minutes into the Joint School Committee meeting held on March 22.

Budget and Warrant Articles

The Regional School Committee discussed developments related to the capital project to repairing and repaving the access road at CCHS including sidewalk repairs and lighting. The articles will be moved at both Town Meetings and then a debt exclusion vote will take place at the first elections following Town Meeting in each town; 5/10/22 in Carlisle and 9/6/22 in Concord.

The Concord School Committee voted to recommend the adoption of Article 20 to transfer funds into the Middle School Stabilization Fund to mitigate the tax impact of the project in the future. The Concord Committee also discussed that they would maintain their recommended annual operating budget for FY23 which is \$43,186,745 an amount that can be funded without an override. The School Committee's recommended budget is slightly higher (approximately \$350,000 or less than 1% of the total) than the spending guideline set by the Concord Finance Committee in December of 2021.

Upcoming Meetings

April 5, 6:30pm

Joint Meeting of the School Committees

April 26, 6:30pm

Joint Meeting of the School Committees

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 (Vice-Chair of CPS), Court Booth, Tracey Marano, Cynthia Rainey (Chair of CPS), and Carrie Rankin

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)

Student Representatives CCHS students Harry Crowley and Darcy Keenan-Mills

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