

The School Committees Report: School Enrollments, School Committee Goals, and Strategic Planning

School Committee Meeting Start Time Moved to 6:00pm

Beginning at their November 8th meeting, the new start time for School Committee meetings will begin at 6 pm.

School Enrollments

The School Committees discussed school enrollments which are finalized on October 1st for the academic year. The enrollment levels are important as they are a major impact on school finances and helps the Administration and School Committees forecast future budgets. The state uses the enrollment figures to determine the level of state aid that will be distributed to each community. Both the state and federal government use the information as the basis for any grants that the Districts can secure. Locally, the October 1st enrollments inform the assessment for each community in the regional agreement for CCHS. School leaders in Concord also use the figures to ensure that there is a balance of student populations amongst the elementary schools.

For Concord Public Schools there is a total of 1,891 students in Kindergarten through eighth grade with 1,240 in grades K-5 at the elementary schools and 651 in grades 6-8 at Concord Middle School. This represents a decrease in students from the 2021 levels of 1,948.

For the Districts' Boston families, there are a total 120 students participating in METCO with 71 students in grades K-8 and 49 at CCHS.

For the Regional District, there are 1,309 students enrolled at CCHS with 941 students from Concord and 293 from Carlisle. These figures reflect a decrease of 22 students from Concord and an increase of 12 students from Carlisle from the 2021 enrollments. These levels set the percentages for the regional agreement at 76% Concord and 24% Carlisle. The total number of students in grades K-12 for the two Districts totals 3,200 which includes some staff enrollments but doesn't include out of district special education students.

Strategic Planning Process for 2023-2028 Kicks Off

The Districts held their first meeting in the process for developing the Districts Strategic Plan for 2023-2028 on October 17th. The planning team includes all stakeholders of the school community including residents, parents, students, teachers, staff, administrators, and members of the School Committees. Leaders of the Districts are utilizing the state's Planning for Success model in which the plan's development is a shared task amongst the many stakeholders and helps maximize the School Committees' participation in the process.

There will be multiple retreats and public meetings between now and April when the plan will be finalized. In addition to participating in the process, the School Committees plan to share regular updates and allow public comment at their regular business meetings during this time.

School Committee Goals

Members of the School Committees have developed a series of professional practice goals that they voted to approve at the October 25th meeting. Key areas of focus are communications, budget, student success and wellbeing, as well as diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging (DEIB).

Each of the areas of focus has a goal and several action steps identified to achieve the goal. For Communications, the School Committees will work to improve internal and external communications by refining processes to ensure that they are operating in good faith with constituents and amongst the

Committee members. The budget goal is to have the Joint School Committees establish common knowledge of budget procedure as it relates to School Committee responsibilities including holding workshops, studying best practices, and working to understand the Finance Committees processes for establishing guidelines.

To meet its student centric goals related to student success and wellbeing, The Joint School Committees will evaluate available metrics on student success and wellbeing to ensure both its policies and spending are successfully meeting students where they are and helping them get to where they need to be. The DEIB goal for the Joint School Committees is to ensure district budgetary allocations and policies are in line with our shared commitment for an equitable, inclusive and anti-racist future in Concord and Concord-Carlisle schools.

For more information and to view the various action steps regarding the School Committees Goals, please visit, www.concordps.org/school-committee/school-committee-meetings/ and the goals are embedded in the agenda for the October 25th meeting.

Upcoming Meetings

November 8, 6:00 pm

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 (Chair of CSC), Court Booth, Tracey Marano (Chair, Regional School Committee), Cynthia Rainey, and Carrie Rankin (Vice-Chair of CSC)

Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee is comprised of the five Concord School Committee members as well as two Carlisle representatives, Sara Wilson, and Sharon Witt (Vice-Chair, Regional School Committee)

METCO Representatives Domingos DaRosa, and Ayesha Lawton

Student Representatives CCHS students Zariah Alves, Harry Crowley, and Felicity Zhang

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.