

The School Committees Report:

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. The meeting scheduled for October 25 is set to begin at 5pm, however, that will be an exception to the new protocol.

Strategic Planning Process for 2023-2028

Members of the School Committees discussed the on-going process for developing the Districts Strategic Plan for 2023-2028 with Superintendent Hunter. The process will include robust engagement with all members 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 October 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.

The foundation of the plan includes creating and identifying a vision, mission, vision of student learning, and core values. The process will also include an assessment of the current five-year strategic plan which was created in 2018. When finalized the plan helps guide decision making, budgets, school policy, and operational decisions for the next five years.

FY24 Budget Timeline

School Committee members discussed process to develop the FY24 budgets with Superintendent Hunter and Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, Robert Conry. Both Districts utilize a zero-based budget process that serves to ensure financial discipline and that resources are directed at strategic priorities.

The process of working with each school site has already started as well as discussions with liaisons for the Finance Committees in Carlisle and Concord. Highlights of the schedule include the Superintendent presenting recommended budgets to the School Committees on December 6th followed by public hearings on December 13th. The Concord School Committee will hold a joint public forum with the Concord Select Board on capital projects in December as well. The School Committees will vote to adopt their recommended budgets by the end of December. Final decisions on budget levels will be decided at Town Meetings in Concord and Carlisle. Concord Town Meeting is scheduled to begin on April 30 and Carlisle has yet to schedule its Town Meeting.

Joint Meeting with Concord Select Board

The Concord School Committee held a joint meeting with the Concord Select Board to discuss CPS capital planning and projects and to share information about the Town's capital needs for other municipal departments. The meeting was part of the School Committee's efforts to create budgets and capital plans that support excellence in education at CPS in a manner that is sensitive to the impacts on taxes for Concord residents. Members of the Committee thanked the Select Board for their on-going support of the schools and school community.

Upcoming Meetings

October 11, 6:30 pm

October 25, 5:00 pm

Joint Meeting of the School Committees

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.