

## **The School Committees Report: Budgets and School Committee Coffees**

### **School Committees Budget Workshop**

Members of the School Committees held a budget workshop with Superintendent Hunter and Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations Robert Conry. The forum was an element in their strategy to meet the Committees' professional practice goal related to budgets. 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.

The budget goals outlined in the workshop included "to maximize the effective use of financial and human capital resources to positively impact every student in a legal and ethically responsive manner." In addition, to "utilize the expertise of educational leaders in developing a student focused instructional and social-emotional environment that supports the districts mission of educating all students as lifelong learners, creative thinkers, caring citizens, and responsible contributors in our increasingly diverse global society."

Members of the School Committees reviewed revenue sources, revolving account funds, grants, expenditures, and key drivers of change in annual budgets. The budgets for both Districts continue to be zero-based budgets where they are built from the ground up with each line item being re-evaluated on an annual basis. The budgets begin with the principals at each school site and are informed by the school improvement plans as well as the District's Strategic Plan.

The workshop also included information regarding the differences in building the Concord Public School budget from the legal requirements associated with developing the budget for the regional school district.

Interested individuals can learn more about the budgets for both Districts as well other data such as student demographics and enrollments in the Transparency Centers that are on the Districts' web site, <https://www.concordps.org/finance-and-operations/>.

### **School Committee Coffees**

Members of the School Committees continue to host School Committee Coffees which provides the public to have informal dialogue with members of the Committees. The events are part of the Committees' efforts to meet their communication and engagement goals.

The next School Committee Coffee is scheduled for Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 10am in the Hyde Park Library. This year, School Committee members vowed to ensure that their coffees were in each of our three communities: Concord, Carlisle and Boston and also that the coffees were held at different times of the day to ensure the broadest participation possible.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

November 22, 6:00 pm

Joint Meeting of the School Committees

Zoom links are available on the District website, [www.concordps.org](http://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/](http://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](http://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](http://www.concordps.org). Or, you can email the Concord Public School Committee at [concordschoolcommittee@concordps.org](mailto:concordschoolcommittee@concordps.org) and the Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee at [concordcarliseschoolcommittee@concordps.org](mailto: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.