

## **The School Committees Report: Joint School Committee Meeting in Boston, METCO Updates, Superintendent Evaluation**

### **METCO Updates at Joint School Committee Meeting in Boston**

During the past several years, the School Committees have made a priority of engaging with the Boston based families of the Districts. Example of these efforts creating a METCO role on both the CPS and CCHS School Committees for parents to serve as non-voting members, coffee hours are held in Boston to facilitate dialogue between parents of Boston students and members of the School Committees, and there is a regular business meeting of the Joint School Committees held in Boston as well. This year, the Joint School Committees' Boston meeting took place in April and included updates from METCO President and CEO, Milly Arbaje-Thomas, as well as CPS METCO Director Felicia Pasley and CCHS METCO Director Debra Jemison.

METCO President Arbaje-Thomas outlined her efforts to support student recruitment and referrals, support students and families, convene Boston and suburban communities, and fulfill the promise of integration which includes advocating for increases in state funding for the program. CPS METCO Director Felicia Pasley shared the supports that are in place for the 73 METCO students enrolled in the CPS K-8 schools; 47 at elementary schools and 26 at Concord Middle School. In addition to the METCO Director, CPS employs staff includes two Academic Liaisons and one Tutor/Bus Monitor to support METCO students. For the 49 METCO students at CCHS, Debra Jemison works with newly created Academic Counselor position and one Academic Liaison to help students. In addition to the academic supports, the Districts have robust engagement plans for students with programs, activities and clubs that range from affinity groups, peer supports, multicultural events, college essay writing, and school activities that include band, chorus, drama, orchestra, and sports. There is also dedicated space at CCHS for METCO students to meet and specialized late bus transportation to ensure that students can participate in activities that occur after traditional school hours.

Future goals for the METCO programs include expansion of grade level entry points to the enrollment process, parent/family mentoring for new families, enhancing relationships and building bridges with historically Black colleges and universities, working with METCO students to ensure access to high level courses, and fostering METCO Ambassador relationships with District Administration.

For more information on the METCO programs for each District, interested individuals can visit [www.concordps.org/METCO](http://www.concordps.org/METCO).

### **Superintendent Evaluation**

Members of the School Committees gave both high grades and high praise for Superintendent Laurie Hunter as the Committees completed their annual Superintendent Performance review for FY '22 and '23. School Committee members pointed to the combination of academic excellence, inclusivity, as well as creating a strong and stable infrastructure by assembling an exceptional staff.

A summary of the performance review stated, "Dr. Hunter continues to have the admiration of the Concord community. Her staff respects her, parents trust her, the wider community appreciates her steady leadership, and town officials and boards with whom she collaborates recognize her competence. Attention to social-emotional crises of specific students, and the social setbacks related to the pandemic, and academic consequences, are rightfully a priority by instructional leaders who report to Dr. Hunter. Dr. Hunter should be commended on prioritizing student needs and advocating for those needs. This can put the schools in conflict with the town but we both have unique perspectives and needs. She has worked collaboratively to set and implement a shared vision for our community, and[...] that vision has become a reality while simultaneously managing a pandemic, a mental health crisis, and the day-to-day fires (literal and figurative) that accompany running a school district. She leads with a sense of calm and competence

that inspires confidence and delivers results. Dr. Hunter's Student Learning goals this year focus on special education, MTSS and student wellbeing. She has worked with the interim Director of Student Services to publish program descriptions for our intensive programs, and she has hired a permanent Director of Student Services, Angel Charles. The development and implementation of our MTSS system is critical in collecting data and assessing the needs of all of our students. We are now seeing this in action and the implementation and continued professional development of staff has proven to be successful."

Members also pointed to her on-going work with the Middle School Building Committee and her leadership in developing a new Five-Year Strategic Plan for the Districts that will be implemented in the fall as other examples of her strong and successful leadership of the Districts.

Interested individuals can find the link to the full Superintendent evaluation report on the Districts' website, <https://www.concordps.org/school-committee/school-committee-meetings/>, in the agenda for the April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Upcoming School Committee Meetings:**

Tuesday, May 9, 6PM at Ripley	Joint School Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 23, 6PM at Ripley	Joint School Committee Meeting

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.