

**JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee
February 26, 2025**

Present: Julie Viola, Chair; CCSC
Carrie Rankin, Chair CSC; CCSC
Alexa Anderson, Vice Chair CCSC; CSC
Brian Waterson, CCSC
Andrew Herchek, CSC; CCSC
Tracey Marano, CSC; CCSC
Cynthia Rainey, CSC; CCSC
Ayesha Lawton, CSC METCO Rep

Present from Administration: Dr. Laurie Hunter, Superintendent of School, CPS & CCRSD
Shelly Chin, Interim Assistant Superintendent, CPS & CCRSD

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Viola called the Concord-Carlisle School Committee (CCSC) to order at 6:30 PM

II. CCHS STUDENT UPDATE

CCHS student representatives Zariah Alves, Maddie Clancy, and Felicity Zhang presented the committee with an update on academic and extracurricular highlights at the high school. Students recently returned from winter break, during which some participated in immersive language trips to Cuba and France. Other recent events at the high school included a military fair hosted by the Learning Commons; the Black Student Union held a potluck featuring trivia and games; rehearsals are underway for the upcoming production of "Shrek," which Felicity and Zariah are participating in; and students are excited about the upcoming multicultural food festival and the WIQH festival, both will showcase diverse cultural experiences and student talent. In athletic news, the winter playoff action continues, and the men's ski team earned second place, spring sports tryouts have begun, and there is an upcoming student senate sports fair.

III. RECOGNITIONS – CCHS METCO STUDENT AMBASSADORS

The CCHS METCO Student Ambassador Program started last year and is designed to allow students to discuss their experiences with the administration. Two students from each grade level are appointed to serve as liaisons and meet regularly with administrators to discuss student concerns and propose ideas, fostering a direct channel of communication. This initiative not only empowers students to influence school decisions but also cultivates a mentoring environment, where older students guide younger peers, strengthening the overall school community. The school formally recognized the student ambassador leaders by presenting them with certificates, acknowledging their commitment and crucial role in bridging the gap between students and administration.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no Public comments.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. 1/27/25 Joint Minutes
- b. 2/10/25 Joint Minutes
- c. 2/14/25 Joint Minutes
- d. CCHS & Willard Staff Requests for CPS Enrollment 25-26
- e. Warrants

1.	CPA A/P		
	1082	1/31/25	\$62.92
	1083	2/13/25	\$452,019.35
	1089	2/27/25	\$203,269.53
2.	CCRS D A/P		
	1186	2/13/25	\$466,085.91
	1187	1/10/25	\$2,000.00
	1188	2/19/25	\$277.75
	1189	1/17/25	\$118.43
	1190	2/13/25	\$171.95
	1191	2/18/25	\$29,546.75
3.	CPS PAYROLL		
	Pay date	2/13/25	\$2,189.02
	Pay date	2/13/25	\$229,111.25
	Pay date	2/13/25	\$372,448.77
4.	CCRS D		
	Pay date	2/13/25	\$631,615.76
	Pay date	2/13/25	\$76,188.21
	Pay date	2/13/25	\$177,546.29
	Pay date	2/13/25	\$44,379.59

Mr. Waterson moved, and Mr. Herchek seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Roll was taken: Anderson, aye; Herchek, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye; Viola, aye; and Waterson, aye.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

CCRS D received correspondence on the Amenities Building and ADA compliance.

CPS had a question about whether tonight’s meeting was open to the public. They also received five emails regarding the cell phone policy, which will be discussed in an upcoming committee meeting.

VII. DISCUSSION

A. Social Studies Updates K-12

Shelly Chin, Interim Assistant Superintendent, CPS & CCRSD introduced the school district's social studies curriculum, spanning from kindergarten through twelfth grade. The

curriculum presented revealed a comprehensive approach centered on developing informed and critically thinking citizens. Key themes include fostering critical thinking and media literacy; promoting civic engagement through action-oriented projects; and employing inquiry-based learning methods to move beyond memorization. The curriculum emphasizes inclusivity, representing diverse perspectives and voices, and ensures a cohesive progression of skills and knowledge across all grade levels, utilizing Concord's rich local history to engage students.

Allison Forseter, Ripley curriculum coordinator, stated the K-5 elementary curriculum focuses on community, local history, building background knowledge, and introduces historical figures and events through hands-on experiences. Robbie Robbins, middle school curriculum coordinator, stated the 6-8 grade curriculum focuses on global cultures and geography, ancient civilizations, the roots of democracy, Civics, and U.S. history with an emphasis on research skills. Johanna Glaser, CCHS Social Studies department chair, stated the high school curriculum offers a wide range of elective courses and emphasizes critical information consumption. The social studies curriculum covers world cultures, U.S. history including civics projects, and electives including history, law, psychology, and other social sciences.

The school committee praised the curriculum's dynamic nature, its focus on values-based learning, and its effectiveness in preparing students for college and active citizenship, with parents and alumni sharing positive experiences and highlighting the strong connection between the English and social studies programs.

B. FY25 CCRSD Budget and Concord Finance Committee Guideline

Dr. Hunter discussed the recent meeting with the Concord Finance Committee. Dr. Hunter recommended the committee approve a \$95,000 budget reduction, allocating \$50,000 from the OPEB trust contribution and \$45,000 from the technology budget, specifically affecting screen replacements. The \$95,000 discrepancy resulted from assessment variations, enrollment shifts, and special education cost exclusions. This adjustment aims to align with the Finance Committee's guidelines and alleviate budget concerns in Carlisle, while prioritizing minimal impact on students.

Mr. Waterson moved, and Ms. Marano seconded the motion to approve a \$95,000 reduction for the FY25 CCRSD budget. Roll was taken: Anderson, aye; Herchek, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye; Viola, aye; Waterson, aye.

C. Superintendent, Chairs and Liaisons Update

Dr. Hunter shared the events of the opening day of the middle school including the positive high energy from both students and staff; a memorable first all-school assembly; and a unified basketball game featuring a surprise appearance from a former Celtics player. Students enjoyed the cafeteria's diverse seating options, with the booths, proving to be a popular hit with students. Food service staff served lunch for all attendees and the students were learning right away and they radiated with the energy of the new school. The grand community opening of the new school, however, is being postponed until May, following the 250th celebrations, to capitalize on improved weather conditions and the completion of all

facilities. The move was a large undertaking, was completed in a very short amount of time, and the children and staff are very happy with the new building. The transition from the Sanborn building proceeded smoothly, with a swift handover to the general contractor for abatement.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to Create LAUNCH Retail Revolving Account

The school committee discussed the establishment of a revolving fund for the Launch Store, a new retail space at 199 Sudbury Road, to manage its financial transactions in accordance with Massachusetts General Law. With the occupancy permit secured and the space fully set up, a soft opening is planned for Friday, generating excitement among committee members regarding both the new venture and the rapid progress made in its development.

Ms. Anderson moved, and Mr. Waterson seconded the motion to authorize establishment of a Launch Retail Revolving Account in accordance with MGL Chapter 71, Section 47 and or any other enabling legislation. Roll was taken: Anderson, aye; Herchek, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye; Viola, aye; Waterson, aye.

B. Vote CPS Building Service Worker Agreement Re: CMS (CSC)

The school committee approved a new agreement with the CPS building service workers following impact bargaining necessitated by the consolidation of the middle school buildings. Discussions in late January and early February addressed position changes, staffing levels, and salary adjustments due to the altered workspace.

Ms. Marano moved, and Ms. Anderson seconded the motion to accept the CPS Building Service Worker Agreement as presented. Roll was taken: Anderson, aye; Herchek, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye; Viola, aye; Waterson, aye.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Viola moved, and Ms. Rankin seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM. Roll was taken: Anderson, aye; Herchek, aye; Marano, aye; Rainey, aye; Rankin, aye; Viola, aye; Waterson, aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Gilmore

Approved: March 25, 2025

Abbreviations:

CCHS Concord-Carlisle High School

CCRSD Concord-Carlisle Regional School District

CCSC Concord-Carlisle Regional District School Committee

CCTA Concord-Carlisle Teachers' Association

CEF Concord Education Fund
CMS Concord Middle School
CMSBC Concord Middle School Building Committee
COAR Communities Organizing Against Racism
CPC Community Preservation Committee
CPS Concord Public Schools
CSC Concord School Committee
CTA Concord Teachers Association
DEIB Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging
DHCB Department of Housing and Community Development
ESSER Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund
FINCOM Finance Committee
LEAP Learning Executive and Academic Processes
MTSS Multi-Tiered System of Supports
PD Professional Development
SC School Committee
SEPAC Special Education Parent Advisory Council
WRAP Writing, Reading, and Academic Processes
YRBS Youth Risk Behavior Survey