

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Concord-Carlisle School Committee
August 25, 2025
Zoom

Present: Tracey Marano, Chair CCSC
Brian Waterson, Vice Chair CCSC
Andrew Herchek, Chair CSC; CCSC
Carrie Rankin, Vice-Chair CSC; CCSC
Lynette Kelleher, CCSC
Sandeep Pisharody, CSC; CCSC
Michael Williams, CSC; CCSC
Michelle MacDougall, CPS METCO Representative

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Marano called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM. Roll call attendance was taken: Herchek, aye; Kelleher, aye; Marano, aye; Pisharody, aye; Rankin, aye; Waterson, aye; Williams, aye.

II. DISCUSSION

A. Review draft letter to Concord Select Board. Mr. Waterson shared a draft letter to the Concord Select Board regarding the recent town wide special election. The draft outlined concerns with the material included in the voter packet, including the error in amount per household and acceptable language in pro and con statements. The letter also reiterated support in working with the Select Board on what is to come going forward.

Mr. Herchek stated that it was well written, noting that the questions on the process were not only for school-related ballot questions, but also for any questions on the ballot. Ms. Kelleher agreed that it was implied that it was for all questions, not only school related. Ms. MacDougall questioned if the point on guidelines around acceptable wording was needed. Ms. Marano stated that the intention was clear and that they are not challenging the election. She suggested they list all of their names on the letter. Mr. Pisharody noted that he liked that the letter pointed out that they are not challenging the election, suggesting that language be added around the importance of accurate data in democracy. Ms. Rankin echoed everyone's thoughts and noted the importance of the issue around making sure statements are not based on opinion, but fact. She noted that she didn't like the bullet around who is responsible for drafting the language, but recommended asking what the process was. She also recommended adding that they are still not in compliance with the law. Mr. Williams noted his concern that the letter doesn't speak to the charge of getting funding secured and getting the project moving forward, noting that the document is backward looking. He recommended that they outline how the SC is looking for CPC funding and focus on what needs to be done to get the project completed.

The SC discussed suggestions and edits and Mr. Waterson edited the document live. Mr. Williams reiterated his feeling that if their job is to support the project, they should be doing

that and then bringing forward their concerns with the process afterwards. Ms. Marano asked Mr. Waterson if he had any clarity on the legality of Carlisle's portion of funding expiring on August 31st and Mr. Waterson stated that he did not have anything further than the expiration date. Ms. MacDougall asked if this item was on the Concord Select Boards meeting agenda. Mr. Williams suggested adding the fact that the SC is applying for CPC funding. Mr. Pisharody stated that he feels the purpose of the letter is to make sure that elections in town are fair and based on a process that everyone understands and data that everyone agrees upon.

Mr. Waterson reviewed the edits agreed upon and Ms. Marano asked if anyone was available to read the letter at the evening's Select Board meeting. Ms. Rankin and Mr. Pisharody both offered their availability.

III. ACTION ITEMS

A. Vote to Approve letter to Concord Select Board. A motion was made by Ms. Rankin, seconded by Mr. Herchek, to approve the letter to the Concord Select Board as discussed. The motion passed by roll call: Herchek, aye; Kelleher, aye; Marano, aye; Pisharody, aye; Rankin, aye; Waterson, aye; Williams, nay.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Rankin. The motion passed by roll call: Herchek, aye; Kelleher, aye; Marano, aye; Pisharody, aye; Rankin, aye; Waterson, aye; Williams, aye, and the meeting adjourned at 12:31 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Higgins

Abbreviations:

CCHS Concord-Carlisle High School
CCRSB Concord-Carlisle Regional School District
CCSC Concord-Carlisle Regional District School Committee
CCTA Concord-Carlisle Teachers' Association
CMS Concord Middle School
CPS Concord Public Schools
CSC Concord School Committee
SC School Committee

Approved: October 8, 2025