

CONCORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Concord School Committee
September 25, 2025

Present via Zoom: Andrew Herchek, Chair CSC; CCSC
Tracey Marano, Chair CCSC
Carrie Rankin, Vice-Chair CSC; CCSC
Sandeep Pisharody, CSC; CCSC
Michael Williams, CSC; CCSC
Michelle MacDougall, CSC METCO Representative
Ayesha Lawton, CSC METCO Representative

Present Administration on Zoom: Dr. Laurie Hunter, Superintendent of School, CPS & CCRSD
Robert Conry, Asst. Supt. of Finance & Operations, CPS
CCRSD
Shelly Chin, Interim Assistant Superintendent, CPS &
CCRSD

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Herchek called the Concord School Committee to order at 5:00 PM. Roll Call was taken: Herchek, present; Marano, present; Pisharody, present; Rankin, present; Williams, present; Lawton, present; MacDougall, present.

II. SUPERINTENDENT AND CHAIRS UPDATE

The Superintendent Update was postponed until the next meeting.

Mr. Herchek read a statement from the School Committee Chairs of the Concord and Concord-Carlisle School Districts condemning the recent hate incident directed at Superintendent Hunter. The act crossed the line of civility and there is absolutely no room for hate, harassment, or intimidation in our schools and community. The Chairs welcome lawful criticism and debate on policies and budgets but maintain that public servants should not have to endure targeted abuse or threats. The Chairs affirmed their support for Dr. Hunter and will take any steps to protect staff and hold those responsible accountable. The Committee calls on the community to condemn this behavior and return to a focus on factual, policy-based dialogue for the betterment of our children and our community.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Accept Annual Distribution from Public School Donation Trust Fund
- B. Approve half days for Pre-K to align with K-5 1/14/26 and 5/20/26
- C. Warrants
- D.
 - 1. CPS/AP

1018	8/31/25	\$28,555.27
1019	8/31/25	\$343,533.04
1025	8/31/25	\$819,064.58
1029	9/25/25	\$865,805.94
 - 2. CPS Payroll

Pay date	8/28/25	\$343.39
Pay date	8/28/25	\$256,131.81
Pay date	8/28/25	\$196.91
Pay date	8/28/25	\$142,936.04
Pay date	8/28/25	\$255,210.00
Pay date	9/11/25	\$375,174.06
Pay date	9/11/25	\$1,5881.87
Pay date	9/11/25	\$210,146.62

- E. Substitute Per Diem Rates
- F. Tuition Rates FY27
- G. School Lunch Rates FY27

Mr. Williams requested the CPS Accounts Payable warrants 1019, 1025, and 1029 be removed from the Consent Agenda. Ms. Marano clarified the items were being voted on again as a formality because Concord members of the CPS had not voted aye for both districts at a prior meeting, though everyone voted aye for approval.

Ms. Rankin moved, and Mr. Williams seconded the motion to remove the CPS Accounts Payable Warrants 1019, 1025, and 1029.

Ms. Marano moved, and Mr. Williams seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with warrants 1019, 1025, and 1029 removed. Roll was taken: Herchek, aye; Marano, aye; Pisharody, aye; Rankin, aye; and Williams, aye.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Marano reported the district received sixteen emails many in support of Dr. Hunter, a question about the communications firm, and on the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.

V. DISCUSSION

A. Washington DC Trip June 2026

Justin Cameron requested approval for the annual 8th grade Washington, D.C. trip, planned for June 2026. World Strides Education Travel Services will assist with trip arrangements and has donated \$7,000 to a scholarship fund for families. To meet all financial needs, students and the district are planning fundraising events to ensure that no student will be turned away due to cost. The base price per student is \$1,549.

Mr. Williams moved, and Mr. Pisharody seconded the motion to approve the Washington DC Trip as presented. Roll was taken: Herchek, aye; Marano, aye; Pisharody, aye; Rankin, aye; and Williams, aye.

B. Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Connection to CMS

Shelly Karlin of the CMS PTG Sustainability Committee discussed the proposed Bruce Freeman Rail Trail to address the community's desire for an improved connection between the trail and the Ellen Garrison building. Ms. Karlin identified several existing paths on the CMS campus,

including the steep, unstable Sanborn path; the eroded "goat path" used by hundreds of bikers, students, and staff; and a temporary wooded path created during construction. The primary motivation for improving these connections is safety and to get students away from vehicular traffic. The committee requested the agenda item be brought back for further discussion and requested more details on the project including the ADA portion of the trail project.

C. CTE Policy First Reading

Moved to the next CPS meeting.

D. FY25 Year End CPS

Moved to the next CPS meeting.

E. CSC Representative for CPS Tutor Bargaining

Dr. Hunter requested two volunteer committee members for the upcoming CTA contract bargaining, an extensive negotiation for a new contract. The general strategy for the negotiating team is to pair an experienced bargainer with a new one. Ms. Marano and Mr. Pisharody volunteered to be the CSC Representatives for CPS Tutor Bargaining.

F. Bias and Hate Incident Reporting System Working Group

Moved to the next CCRSD meeting.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Marano moved, and Mr. Williams seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6 p.m. Roll was taken: Herchek, aye; Marano, aye; Pisharody, aye; Rankin, aye; and Williams, aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Gilmore

Approved: October 8, 2025