

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee
January 21, 2026**

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

Not Present: Michelle MacDougall, CSC METCO
Ayesha Lawton, CSC METCO

Present from Administration: 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

Ms. Marano called the Concord Carlisle School Committee Workshop to order at 5:00 PM.
Mr. Herchek called the Concord School Committee Workshop to order at 5:00 PM. Roll was taken: Herchek, present; Kelleher, present; Marano, present; Pisharody, present; Rankin, present; Waterson, present; and Williams, present.

II. WORKSHOP – STUDENT PRIVACY

Peter Sumners of Murphy, Lamere & Murphy, P.C. reviewed the role of the school committee, public records and privacy considerations, open meeting law, and committee member responsibilities. The Education Reform Act of 1993 delineates the committee and administration roles investing day-to-day operations with the Superintendent, Principals, and School Administrators.

III. SUPERINTENDENT AND CHAIRS UPDATE

Dr. Hunter announced the retirement of Willard Elementary School Principal Matt Lucey.

Ms. Marano shared METCO is scheduling another parent meeting as part of their efforts to recruit for the METCO PTG.

Mr. Waterson shared Carlisle Public School Superintendent James O'Shea announced his retirement. The CPC reviewed the application for the amenities building and discussions centered on budget estimates and potential cost overruns. The district is in a holding pattern while awaiting guidance from the Finance Committee.

IV. DISCUSSION

A. Authorization of Additional \$25,000 for Amenities Building Design/Permitting.

Mr. Herchek moved and Mr. Waterson seconded the motion that the Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee authorize the use of \$25,000 in Capital Stabilization Funds for additional costs to finalize the design and permitting for the Amenities Building Project. Roll was taken: Herchek, aye; Kelleher, aye; Marano, aye; Pisharody, aye; Rankin, aye; Waterson, aye; and Williams, aye.

B. Approval of CCRSD Bus Lease.

Ms. Rankin moved and Mr. Williams seconded the motion that the Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee authorize the attached Resolution for Lease Purchase Financing of two school buses, as written. Roll was taken: Herchek, aye; Kelleher, aye; Marano, aye; Pisharody, aye; Rankin, aye; Waterson, aye; and Williams, aye.

C. \$5,000 Grant Acceptance for Concord-Carlisle Adult & Community Ed.

Mr. Williams moved and Mr. Herchek seconded the motion to accept the \$5,000 grant for Concord-Carlisle Adult & Community Education. Roll was taken: Herchek, aye; Kelleher, aye; Marano, aye; Pisharody, aye; Rankin, aye; Waterson, aye; and Williams, aye.

V. ADJOURNMENT CCSC

Ms. Marano adjourned the Concord-Carlisle School Committee at 6:22 PM.

Ms. Marano moved and Mr. Williams seconded the motion to move up the agenda item Public Comments.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no Public Comments.

Ms. Rankin moved to open the agenda until the students arrived at 6:30 PM. The vote was unanimous.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Herchek reported CPS received one question on when the school calendar will be released.

VIII. RECOGNITIONS - CMS PROJECT 351 AMBASSADOR

Eighth grade student Felix Barber discussed his experience as a CMS Project 351 Ambassador. The goal of the non-profit effort is to bring together 351 eighth-grade ambassadors from across Massachusetts for a day of high-impact service learning and leadership. Representing Concord, Felix shared the event kicked off at Faneuil Hall and students from all 351 towns collaborated on projects that impacted an estimated 25,000 people through food kits, hygiene packs, and handmade blankets. Despite freezing weather, the experience fostered a sense of community and inspired Felix to lead an upcoming clothing drive for Cradles to Crayons.

IX. DISCUSSION

A. CMS DESE Recognition for 2025 MCAS Performance

Concord Middle School Principal Justin Cameron and Peabody Assistant Principal Olive Bradford shared a presentation on the CMS recognition by DESE for student performance. A key component of the program's success is Enrichment Blocks led by licensed grade-level teachers, fostering deeper student-teacher relationships and academic growth. Since 2021, the program has yielded significant results including a 20-point growth in Student Growth Percentiles and an increase in math proficiency from 53% to 71%. The Enrichment Block uses data-driven placements based on academic or SEL needs; offers intervention to ensure students receive extra help at no social cost; uses relationship-based instruction so students work with core teachers in a project-based environment with no homework; and focuses on growth for high-achieving students and those requiring support, ensuring no student flatlines.

B. Warrant to Create Special Education Stabilization Fund

Mr. Conry recommended approving a warrant to create a special education stabilization fund, as financial safety net for unexpected out-of-district placement costs. The district currently has few students placed out-of-district, but lacks sufficient circuit breaker funds to act as a buffer. The stabilization fund allows the district to capture year-end surpluses to mitigate future fiscal volatility. To ensure transparency and inter-departmental collaboration, future expenditures from the fund would require authorization from the School Committee and the Select Board.

Ms. Rankin moved and Ms. Marano seconded the motion that the committee vote to approve a warrant to create a special education stabilization fund. Roll was taken: Herchek, aye; Marano, aye; Pisharody, aye; Rankin, aye; Williams, abstain.

C. CMS Solar Update

Mr. Herchek reported the solar installation project for the Ellen Garrison building is being re-evaluated after the CMLP revoked its initial invitation for bids. Although the building was designed for solar, the roof's membrane structure makes traditional installation difficult; drilling would void the warranty, and alternatives such as ballasted systems or membrane bonding present significant structural or sourcing challenges. The committee remains committed to the project and is collaborating with CMLP to refine the scope and explore all options, including the potential for parking lot canopies. A detailed strategy session with CMLP leadership is planned for the next meeting to address technical questions and finalize a plan.

Mr. Williams attempted to bring up recent comments by the Middlesex District Attorney concerning our community and was accused of breaching Open Meeting Law by Chair Herchek. Dr. Hunter responded on the matter.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Herchek adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Gilmore

CSC minutes approved: March 18, 2026

CCSC minutes approved: April 1, 2026

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

CMSBC Concord Middle School Building Committee

CPC Community Preservation Committee

CPS Concord Public Schools

CSC Concord School Committee

DEIB Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging

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