

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee
April 14, 2026

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

Not Present: Sandeep Pisharody, CSC; CCSC
Ayesha Lawton, CCRSD METCO

Present from Administration: Dr. Laurie Hunter, Superintendent of Schools
Robert Conry, Assistant Superintendent
Shelly Chin, Assistant Superintendent

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Marano called the Concord Carlisle School Committee to order at 7:00 PM. Mr. Herchek called the Concord School Committee to order at 7:00 PM. Roll was taken: Herchek, present; Kelleher, present; Marano, present; Rankin, present; Waterson, present; and Williams, present.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. February 4, 2026, CCSC Minutes

Mr. Williams moved to approve the minutes with his proposed amendments and Ms. Rankin seconded the motion to approve the minutes with the proposed amendments. Roll was taken: Herchek, abstain; Kelleher, aye; Marano, nay; Rankin, aye; Waterson, aye; and Williams, aye.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Cell Phone Update

The committee briefly discussed the state legislation requiring all public-school districts to adopt a cell phone-free policy by the 2026–2027 school year, aiming for a bell-to-bell ban on personal devices. This policy mandates phones be turned off and stored away during the day, with exceptions for medical necessity, IEP requirements, and disabilities. Dr. Hunter advised waiting for the formal state framework to avoid community confusion. Because the final guidelines are still pending and more information is required from the Governor's office and DESE, this item will be brought back at a future meeting.

B. Amenities Building - Town Meeting

The committee held a discussion on the Amenities Building and the presentation from the CPC at the Concord Town Meeting on April 27. Ms. Marano volunteered to address any misinformation concerning project costs. Mr. Waterson was contacted by Senator Barrett's office on \$175,000 in funding from the Fair Share Act, potentially reducing the final amount

of CPC funding required from Concord and Carlisle. Ms. Marano and Mr. Herchek volunteered to write a letter to the editor outlining the project's facts and details, while the committee will continue outreach efforts through podcasts and information sessions with the League of Women Voters.

C. Maisey O'Donnell Diving Center

The Concord town planner submitted a proposal with parking requirements for the Beede Center, necessitated by the 1,000-square-foot addition for the dry dive center. The proposed plan adds parking along the loop road entrance near Walden Street. Since the campus has reached its limit for impervious surfaces, traditional paving is difficult, and gravel lots present environmental concerns regarding soil leakage. The committee will collect additional zoning data and options, such as a parking waiver or a variance. A formal presentation featuring the town planner and project architects is being scheduled for May.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT AND CHAIR UPDATES

Ms. MacDougall shared several recent updates, including the METCO Advocacy Day at the State House. She noted the Alcott PTG recently met with the new METCO representative and guidelines are being developed to define the roles of future representatives. The Alcott Multicultural Night, originally scheduled for early April, has been postponed to May 15.

Mr. Williams attended METCO Advocacy Day and reported a productive event. The day featured meetings with METCO CEO Dr. Candace Sumner, various board members, and legislators to discuss the program's impact. Highlights included an inspiring address from State Representative Christopher Worrell, a former METCO student.

The second community coffee was held at the Fowler Library, hosted by Ms. Rankin and Mr. Williams. Sixteen residents participated in a discussion that focused on three main areas: support for a bell-to-bell cell phone policy, student data privacy, and SEPAC/ELA progress. Mr. Williams suggested the formation of a Technology Advisory Group, involving parents and industry experts, to provide guidance on district-wide technology policies.

Ms. Rankin and Mr. Williams recommended that future committees formalize community coffees as a recurring, year-long opportunity to sample community sentiment, rather than scheduling them only as end-of-year events.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Waterson moved and Mr. Williams seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM. Roll was taken: Kelleher, aye; Marano, aye; Rankin, aye; Waterson, aye; and Williams, aye.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Gilmore

Approved: May 6, 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
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