

Present: Drew Magliozi  
Tracey Marano  
Sandeep Pisharody  
Michael Williams  
Michelle MacDougall, CPS METCO Representative on Zoom

Not Present: Andrew Herchek

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

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Pisharody called the Concord School Committee to order at 6:00 PM.

### **II. RECOGNITIONS - CMS Shadow a Student**

Dr. Hunter introduced CMS Assistant Principal Elizabeth Bradford and CMS students who shared their experiences from Shadow a Student Day. The initiative was designed to let faculty members experience a school day through a student's perspective. CMS students shared they volunteered because they wanted to highlight their workload and to showcase special education experiences, while shadowing teachers observed silently. The debrief revealed faculty members were impressed by the rigorous yet balanced curriculum, the thoughtful integration of technology, and the energetic pace of student life, leading to a desire among staff to expand the program so more adults can participate in the future.

### **III. SUPERINTENDENT AND CHAIRS UPDATE**

Dr. Hunter provided an update on recent events including the conclusion of the middle school's peer-led, LGBTQ-focused playbook initiative, the upcoming June 1 eighth-grade trip, and the Vision of a Graduate. To manage upcoming student transitions, the district hosted fifth-grade families at CMS, while faculty completed the first year of the EL literacy program. Dr. Hunter concluded with the announcement of a June meeting with local parent advocates to foster direct communication regarding ongoing town technology discussions.

Ms. Marano attended a school chairs roundtable with a representative from the MASC.

Mr. Pisharody shared the Bias and Hate Incident Working Group's final report is nearly complete and will be presented to the Select Board on June 22.

Ms. MacDougal shared the K-8 METCO picnic was held on Saturday and attended by many families. She added parents reached out about the lack of air conditioning on METCO buses.

### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Joe Palumbo, 90 Black Horse Place Concord, member of the DEIB Commission announced the third annual Concord Pride festival is scheduled for June 6. The event features district-wide collaboration, including participation from high school students and various parent-teacher groups. Mr. Palumbo requested a formal letter of support from the committee for the Black Heritage Trail project, which proposes installing eight to ten

historical markers across town. He noted that nearly every school building is within walking distance of a planned marker, including sites connected to Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, and Civil War veteran George Dugan, offering invaluable educational opportunities that signal inclusivity for current and future students.

Diane Proctor raised concerns about the limitations of the current online webinar format for committee meetings. She explained while attending remotely is necessary due to scheduling, the webinar isolates remote viewers by hiding the attendee list. Ms. Proctor contrasted this with the Select Board's format, which allows the public to see who is engaged. She requested the committee investigate alternative virtual formats to foster a sense of community connection for those watching from home.

Kim Forsyth, Thoreau parent, voiced support for the newly created Intentional Technology Coalition. Drawing from her perspective as a parent and a clinician, she noted a lack of clarity regarding school technology use and highlighted how managing digital devices has become a source of friction and disconnection for local families. Ms. Forsyth emphasized the need for increased communication and transparency from the district, advocating for collaborative efforts that clarify the intentional purpose of technology in schools while empowering families to maintain a healthy balance with human connection.

Dr. Amy Amick, 216 Southfield Road Concord, advocated for a thoughtful, evidence-based approach to technology that prioritizes long-term brain health and childhood development. Drawing on neurological research, she stated childhood and adolescence are periods of critical brain growth where excessive screen exposure can displace experiences like sensory-rich play, face-to-face social interaction, and handwriting. She stated excessive screen time manifests as language and attention challenges in young children and as anxiety, depression, and sleep disruption in adolescents. Dr. Amick concluded by asking the community to evaluate whether digital tools enhance education or crowd out foundational experiences.

Emily Lines, 63 Bruce Road Concord, parent of three CPS students, introduced herself as organizer of the newly launched Intentional Technology Coalition, a group of over 100 local parents and caregivers advocating for thoughtful digital practices. Ms. Lines supported a district-wide report on educational technology and AI use. She encouraged the district to follow the model of other Massachusetts districts by tracking student screen time data, creating written policies, and developing a grade-by-grade inventory of digital learning apps and their educational purposes. Ms. Lines proposed the creation of a collaborative technology advisory committee to partner with the district, helping to streamline complex tech-related decisions, share community expertise, and ensure future digital choices align with the district's core educational values and student well-being.

## **V. CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Williams requested the March 18, 2026, meeting minutes be pulled and his proposed amendments be considered.

Ms. Marano moved and Mr. Magliozzi seconded the motion to approve the March 18, 2026, minutes. Mr. Williams moved and Ms. Marano seconded the motion to approve the March 18, 2026, minutes as amended. The committee approved the motion, Mr. Magliozzi abstained.

Mr. Williams requested Ayesha Lawton and Michelle MacDougall be added to Call to Order section. After a brief discussion the topic was deferred to a future meeting.

## **VI. CORRESPONDENCE**

Ms. Marano reported receiving three pieces of correspondence on technology.

## **VII. DISCUSSION**

### **A. CMLP Update on CMS Solar**

Jason Bulger, Director of the Concord Municipal Light Plant (CMLP), provided an update on the CMS solar project. Mr. Bulger noted that while the district did not receive the Green School Works grant, alternative plans are actively being pursued. CMLP is focusing on a Power Purchase Agreement model, where a solar developer covers all upfront material and development costs. This setup transfers federal tax incentive risks away from the district while imposing no financial liability or fees on the schools. Under this front-of-the-meter model, rooftop panels will tie directly to the light plant's grid, supplying power to the school during peak demand and distributing excess energy to nearby customers. CMLP is currently collaborating with school administration and developers to finalize a proposal. If contracts, legal reviews, and safety provisions are expedited, construction on the non-penetrating rooftop system could begin this summer while school operations are vacant.

### **B. District Math Committee Report PreK-8**

Shelly Chin, Assistant Superintendent, presented an update on the PreK-8 district math self-study and needs assessment. Ms. Chin outlined the instructional vision focused on conceptual understanding and student discourse, alongside reviewing district MCAS and internal assessment data that revealed achievement, gender, and subgroup gaps. The analysis highlighted the strength of Concord's educators but identified weaknesses, notably the elementary levels reliance on Everyday Math, a heavily language-based curriculum no longer sanctioned by the state, and the lack of dedicated math specialists. Dr. Hunter added a high-quality, research-based curriculum adoption is the long-term goal, but it must be delayed stabilizing the district's ongoing tier-one literacy implementation. Steps discussed in the interim included a pilot program adding early-math diagnostic screening tools; adding dedicated math specialists in the next budget cycle; and utilizing METCO bus commutes for structured homework and peer-tutoring time.

### **C. FY26 CPS Budget Update**

Mr. Conry presented the FY26 CPS Budget Update and reported the district is navigating a tight fiscal year-end and it has implemented a budget freeze requiring any non-critical spending to be deferred to the next fiscal cycle. Mr. Conry stated the major expense drivers included unexpected legal fees and high winter heating costs. To legally offset potential overages, the district will utilize approximately \$100,000 from its circuit breaker reserves. He emphasized all expenses and services occurring through June 30th must be strictly encumbered within the current fiscal year, regardless of when cash is disbursed. Mr. Conry concluded the district expects a measure of financial relief in FY27 through a town reimbursement of \$180,000 for homeless transportation costs incurred during FY25.

### **D. Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Update**

Shelly Karlin of the Concord Middle School PTG provided an update on the conceptual design to connect the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail to the CMS Ellen Garrison building. The project has strong community support, having gained a formal endorsement from the Select Board and a letter of support from a local cycling group, alongside critical financial

backing through a \$50,000 transfer to the district and an anonymous \$25,000 donation. Ms. Karlin reported to advance the project, officials submitted an RFQ to contracting companies to obtain an updated, granular project roadmap within a \$50,000 design budget. The initiative is structured across three phases: targeting phase-one design and planning completion by August 2026; final design and construction bidding between October 2026 and May 2027; and ultimate construction completion in late 2027.

#### **VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Ms. Marano moved and Mr. Williams seconded the motion that the Concord School Committee enter Executive Session under Purpose 3 of the Open Meeting Law: to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the CTA ESP and not return to open session.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Gilmore

Approved: June 16, 2026

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