

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Concord-Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee
August 26, 2026**

Present: Brian Waterson, Chair CCSC
Tracey Marano, CSC; Vice Chair CCSC
Sandeep Pisharody, Chair CSC; CCSC
Andrew Herchek, Vice Chair CSC; CCSC
Lynette Kelleher, CCSC
Drew Magliozzi, CSC; CCSC
Michael Williams, CSC; CCSC
Ayesha Lawton, CCSC METCO

Not Present: Michelle MacDougall, CPS METCO

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Waterson called the Concord-Carlisle School Committee meeting to order at 6:01 PM. Mr. Pisharody called the Concord School Committee meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

Roll was taken: Herchek, present for both; Kelleher, present for region; Magliozzi, present for both; Marano, present for both; Pisharody, present for both; Waterson, present for region; and Williams, present for both.

II. SUPERINTENDENT, CHAIRS, AND METCO UPDATE

Dr. Hunter reported on district facilities and strategic initiatives, including an unplanned fire-suppression-system replacement following the Thoreau fire that required reallocation of capital funds; continuation of the Thoreau playground project (Phase II) into October; submission of the Amenities Building construction permit, with groundbreaking anticipated in October and completion in April 2027; formation of an internal Instructional Technology Committee and a broader District Technology Committee; and progression of the "Vision of a Graduate" initiative from design to implementation across Pre-K-8.

Mr. Pisharody reported that a proposal from CMLP on the CMS Solar Project is still pending; that the Select Board's Bias and Hate Reporting working group will hold two community forums (September 4 and September 8) accessible via Zoom; that an MCI Concord Master Plan and Zoning Meeting is scheduled for September 9 at the CCHS auditorium; and that proposed dates have been circulated for an initial School Committee meeting with FINCOM.

Mr. Waterson shared updates on two MASC events: a Superintendent Evaluation Training session and an August session on E-Rate federal financial assistance, and he emphasized the importance of monitoring trends in federal education funding. He also noted that the new Interim Superintendent in Carlisle is settling in and reminded everyone that the Welcome Back event for teachers and staff is scheduled for August 27th at 8:00 AM at CCHS.

Ms. Lawton shared that METCO hosted a welcome-back event at the Kroc Center in Boston to boost parent involvement and community engagement. She noted that two new METCO students enrolled at CCHS this year and that outreach efforts introducing incoming Carlisle freshmen to the METCO program were well received, with plans to make this outreach an annual tradition.

III. CCHS STUDENT UPDATE

Mark Johnson presented highlights from the opening week at CCHS including Freshman orientation training for student leaders, the ninth graders attended campus tours to review their schedules and locate their classrooms, the student government is handling back-to-school logistics, including t-shirt distribution and parking pass assignments, Fall sports and scrimmages are underway, and the annual Freshman Dance is scheduled for August 28th.

Mark shared there are many new student club initiatives, including the launch of a local chapter of Interwoven, a global, youth-led nonprofit focused on STEM, neurodiversity, and inclusion. Over the summer, Mark participated in Jaylen Brown's Bridge Program & AI Workshop and attended sessions at Google that explored the practical applications, limitations, and creative uses of artificial intelligence.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ellen Quackenbush requested a report on the progress and impact of the Vision of the Graduate initiative including a published summary or final timeline. She asked that the findings include three key areas of focus 1) students emphasizing creative problem-solving through active listening and constructive engagement with differing viewpoints over mere persuasion 2) parent discussions and effective communication tailored to specific audiences rather than a one-size-fits-all approach 3) and academic preparation and resilience. Ms. Quackenbush stated metrics like GPA are insufficient on their own and success requires character, resilience, and learning through challenges alongside traditional intelligence.

Kristen Hagerty, of Revolutionary Road, requested a formal discussion at a future meeting regarding the district's policies on timeout rooms and physical seclusion. Ms. Hagerty stated that DESE prohibits seclusion, emphasizing its severe and lasting traumatic impact, particularly on young, neurodivergent, or disabled students. She expressed concern over how the district manages the requirement to ensure no medical or psychological contraindications exist prior to emergency interventions. She asked whether families will be asked to sign advance waivers, how parents will be informed of potential risks, and what safeguards are in place if a parent or physician explicitly refuses consent. Ms. Hagerty urged the district to focus on proactive de-escalation strategies, resolve discrepancies between official reporting and actual student experiences with timeout rooms, and consider eliminating timeout rooms to prevent accidental or unlawful seclusion.

Emily Lines, of 63 Bruce Road, Intentional Tech Coalition of Concord founder, referenced the recent \$17 billion Meta settlement as evidence of corporate engagement tactics. She noted that ed-tech platforms and generative AI tools often mirror social media features, such as points, streaks, and badges, to maximize screen time rather than deepen learning. She supports the administration's District Technology Committee but requested a public discussion on the

parent-proposed Technology Advisory Committee to ensure community alignment. Ms. Lines outlined three core priorities for technology governance: evaluating comprehensive safety and efficacy across student focus, mental health, sleep, and physical well-being beyond basic data privacy compliance; ensuring transparency and oversight through ongoing public reporting; and fostering meaningful parent inclusion that grants parent representatives genuine influence in shaping district outcomes rather than a symbolic advisory seat.

Ece Turnator, 168 Cambridge Turnpike raised concerns about the current Zoom webinar format and stated that it feels off-putting compared to the standard town meetings. Ece Turnator asked the committee to consider returning to an open meeting format and utilize restricted settings only when necessary. Dr. Hunter stated the webinar structure was implemented to prevent Zoom-bombing security incidents and to protect meeting integrity.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Warrants
- B. Accept \$250 Donation from Middlesex Savings Bank for CCHS Bookmarked Club
- C. Accept \$3,870 Installment of Concord Carlisle Foundation Grant supporting Partners in Rhyme
- D. Accept \$500 Donation from Special Olympics MA for CMS Special Olympics Basketball
- E. CCHS Boys Cross Country Trip to Warwick RI on 9/26/26

Ms. Marano moved and Mr. Williams seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Roll was taken: Herchek, aye for both; Kelleher, aye for region; Magliozzi, aye for both; Marano, aye for both; Pisharody, aye for both; Waterson, aye for region; and Williams, aye for both.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

The District received 10 pieces of correspondence since July 1, 2026.

Mr. Pisharody introduced a new tracking log designed to monitor all correspondence. The system records sender details, target district or region, subject, and response status to ensure timely follow-ups and enhance public transparency. Built on a commitment to accountability, the New Communication Tracking Pilot will be maintained as a shared spreadsheet on the internal drive, with summaries presented at every meeting. This will focus on highlighting high-level subject trends and key response metrics rather than raw correspondence.

VII. DISCUSSION

A. Climate and Culture Working Group

The Climate and Culture Working Group reported on its summer review of quantitative (YRBS, Panorama) and qualitative indicators and proposed establishing three dedicated Regional School Committee sessions per year to review student well-being and school climate, with the first tentatively planned for October or November. Members discussed broadening the framework's scope, including qualitative community input, professional facilitation, integration of student and educator voices, and centering METCO family perspectives. The working group will incorporate this feedback before bringing a proposal to a formal vote, after which it will dissolve in favor of full committee oversight.

B. Superintendent's Goals 2026-2027

Dr. Hunter presented her updated Superintendent's Goals for 2026–2027 and a new spreadsheet-based tracking system with measurable metrics and status indicators. Key initiatives include Elementary Literacy Rollout, Core High-Quality Instructional Practices, Universal Design for Learning & Equity Focus, Teacher Leadership Development, Legislative & Policy Compliance, the LEADS Act Diversity Mandate, Tiered Focused Monitoring, Operations/Budgeting/District Improvement, Labor Contract Bargaining, Leadership Transition Support, and Culture & Belonging.

C. School Committee Practices and Protocols

Mr. Waterson presented a draft of the committee's practices and protocols for 2026–2027 for annual re-adoption and web publication, including updated confidentiality language, routing of administrative inquiries through the Superintendent and Committee Chairs, and enhanced METCO representation and inclusivity practices.

Mr. Magliozzi moved and Mr. Herchek seconded the motion to approve the Concord-Carlisle School Committee Operating Protocols 2026-2027 as amended. Roll was taken: Herchek, aye for both; Kelleher, aye for region; Magliozzi, aye for both; Marano, aye for both; Pisharody, aye for both; Waterson, aye for region; and Williams, nay for both.

D. School Committee Goals 2026-2027

Mr. Waterson and Mr. Pisharody shared a draft review of the committee's operational goals for the 2026–2027 academic year. Goal 1: Budget & Financial Management focuses on transparent, fiscally responsible budgeting by hosting an early-year budget workshop for new members and the public, collaborating directly with the Concord and Carlisle Finance Committees to establish agreed-upon guidelines, and navigating active union collective bargaining. Goal 2: Superintendent Monitoring & Evaluation emphasizes evidence-based progress tracking aligned with DESE focus indicators, aiming to complete Superintendent Hunter's evaluation by April 2027, ensuring outgoing member participation prior to spring turnover, while incorporating oversight of student academic outcomes, achievement gaps, and Tier 1 instructional data. Goal 3: Policy, Curriculum, and Technology Oversight targets district policy updates and instructional alignment by operationalizing a formal District Technology Committee with active School Committee representation by mid-October 2026, alongside policy oversight for major curriculum initiatives in UDL, mathematics, and social studies. Goal 4: Climate, Culture, and Community Engagement prioritizes internal culture, proactive two-way communication with town leadership and the public, the integration of qualitative student perspectives, and ongoing equity, inclusion, and belonging initiatives across both districts. Mr. Waterson and Mr. Pisharody will refine the language and key performance indicators before presenting the final framework for adoption at the next meeting.

E. Annual CCHS Student Activity Account Approval

Mr. Conry shared the Concord-Carlisle High School Student Activity Accounts Review FY27. DESE Compliance requires an annual review of all active student activity accounts including clubs, student groups, and field trip accounts.

Following a 5-year audit of inactive accounts lacking advisors, the administration recommended closing dormant accounts and reallocating funds; the residual field trip funds will be transferred to a Field Trip Scholarship Fund; \$5,000 will be transferred to a Student Experience Account; and the inactive "De-stress Club" will transfer to "Feel Good Fridays."

Ms. Marano moved and Mr. Williams seconded the motion to authorize the use of the Concord-Carlisle High School student activity accounts as listed on the following pages for fiscal year 2027, and to approve the transfers recommended by administration on those pages and also authorize the administration to pay FY27 student activity audit fees for CCHS from the interest income student activity account. The motion passed unanimously.

F. CCHS Amenities Building Update

Mr. Conry reported that a construction contract has been signed with the winning bidder below the initial budget, with site mobilization beginning in September and substantial completion expected in April. Total funding sources equal \$2,425,000; total estimated project expenses are \$2,215,221, leaving an estimated buffer of approximately \$200,000. Per the FY27 allocation formula, project costs are split 74.84% to Concord and 25.16% to Carlisle. Access to athletic fields will remain safe and open throughout construction, overseen by an Owner's Project Manager and the athletic department.

G. Second Reading Policies

Members briefly discussed the second reading of Policies JLCD (Administration of Medication to Students), JLCDC (Self-Administration and Self-Carry of Medication), JKAA (Timeout, Seclusion, and Restraint of Students), and KBG (Parent Advisory). Dr. Hunter reported Policy JKAA, Timeout, Seclusion, & Restraint reflects recent state law changes that continues to evolve. The district emphasizes preventing student seclusion or restraint whenever possible, reserving these actions strictly for rare, unsafe situations.

Ms. Marano moved and Mr. Magliozzi seconded the motion to approve Policies JLCD, JLCDC, JKAA, and KBG as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

H. First Reading Policies

i. Policy JICK, Harassment Policy Amendment & Approval

Dr. Hunter presented Policy JICK, Harassment Policy Amendment & Approval that is DOJ mandated and revised to correct a discrepancy regarding jurisdiction over off-campus vs. on-campus harassment, ensuring explicit compliance with DOJ requirements ahead of a weekly deadline. The committee agreed to review this policy again at a later date.

Ms. Marano moved and Mr. Magliozzi seconded the motion to approve the Policy JICK as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

ii. Protect Act Policy

Dr. Hunter shared the first reading of the Protect Act Policy that codifies newly enacted Massachusetts state law regarding law enforcement and ICE access to school properties. The current protocol is for building staff and administrative assistants to keep external officials outside school entryways while an administrator snapshots any presented warrants. Warrants are immediately forwarded to legal counsel for vetting prior to granting property entry.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT CCSC

Ms. Kelleher moved and Mr. Waterson seconded the motion to adjourn the CCSC at 8:40 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION CSC

Ms. Marano moved and Mr. Williams seconded the motion that the Concord School Committee will enter into Executive session pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation with the Concord Teachers Association and a former teacher if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares, and to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements with regard to the review and approval of executive session minutes from April 15, 2026, May 14, 2026, May 20, 2026 and July 10, 2026, and not return to Open Session.

Roll was taken: Magliozzi, aye; Marano, aye; Pisharody, aye, and Williams, aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Gilmore

Approved: October 7, 2026

Abbreviations:

CCHS Concord-Carlisle High School
CCRSD 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