

## **The School Committees Report: Seating of School Committees and Election of School Committee Officers; School Improvement Plans for 2024-25 School Year; Student School Committee Representative**

### **Seating of School Committees and School Committee Officers; Carrie Rankin to Lead Concord School Committee and Julie Viola will Chair Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee**

The Concord and Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committees welcomed new members and held their annual election of officers at their regularly scheduled business meeting held on June 4<sup>th</sup>. The Concord School Committee recently welcomed new member Andrew Herchek who joined the Committee following Concord's Town Meeting. Concord School Committee members elected Carrie Rankin to serve as Chair and Andrew Herchek to serve as Vice-Chair.

The Regional School Committee, which is comprised of the five members of the Concord School Committee and two members of the Carlisle School Committee, welcomed two new Carlisle members, Julie Viola, and Brian Waterson. Regional School Committee members elected Julie Viola to serve as the Chair and Alexa Anderson to serve as Vice-Chair.

Members thanked previous Chairs Alexa Anderson, CPS, and Tracey Marano, CCRSC, for their leadership and efforts during their tenure as Chairs.

### **School Improvement Plans**

The Principals of each school site joined the School Committees to provide them with an overview of the School Improvement Plans for the upcoming school year. All the plans reflect the goals of the Districts' 2023-2028 Strategic Plan and are the result of significant engagement with each site's school community including students, teachers, administrators, and parents. The common themes include employing highly engaging teaching practices, emphasizing innovation, and offering multiple paths to student success; developing and creating a sound infrastructure to support the school community's well-being and mental health for students, staff, administrators, and families; as well as creating a collaborative and inclusive culture in the schools and community that values diversity and recognizes the contributions and uniqueness of each learner and staff member.

Co-Principals Brian Miller and Katie Stahl presented the highlights of the plan for CCHS which included ensuring there is vertical and horizontal alignments of the English and math curriculums, an analysis of Q5, and will begin the process to create a portrait of what a graduate of CCHS should have in terms of skills and attributes. CMS Principal Justin Cameron spoke about the unique nature of the CMS School Advisory Council that helped develop the plan; the Council includes five student representatives, five CMS parents, and one community-at-large member. He noted that the CMS community is excited to be planning for the transition to the new Ellen Garrison Building at the Concord Middle School next year and they have created a Faculty and Staff Transition Committee and will work with the existing Student Building Committee to assist in the planning.

Principals Naomi Krakow (Alcott), Matthew Lucey (Willard), and Justin Sparks (Thoreau) outlined highlights for the CPS Elementary Schools. A continued priority will be the training of staff in Responsive Classrooms which is a student-centered approach to leading a classroom. It is based on research and evidence-based practices that are designed to ensure student well-being and mental health while creating joyful and engaging classrooms. Currently, approximately 40 percent of staff are trained with the goal of increasing that number to 60 percent by the end of the next academic year. Another

priority is to train more staff in the Wilson Reading System (WRS). Concord's Elementary Schools currently have 32 staff members trained in WRS which allows them to help students struggling with reading with additional strategies and supports to give those students the necessary skills to access grade level text. The WRS also can follow students in following grades as needed. It can be particularly helpful for students with dyslexia. Justin Sparks also was pleased to share that the Thoreau school community will be undertaking a feasibility study for a playground project that will be safe and accessible.

For more information on each of the school improvement plans, individuals can access them on the website of each school site or at the School Committee's page on the Districts' website; the plans are embedded in the School Committee agenda for June 4<sup>th</sup> at [www.concordps.org/school-committee/school-committee-meetings](http://www.concordps.org/school-committee/school-committee-meetings).

### **Students Representatives for Regional School Committee**

School Committee members welcomed current sophomore Maddie Clancy who was elected to serve as one of the Student Representatives for the Regional School Committee. Maddie will join fellow students Zariah Alves and Felicity Zhang as students serving in this capacity. Members also thanked Harry Crowley, who served in this capacity for three years and who is departing as he graduated on June 1<sup>st</sup> with the CCHS Class of 2024.

### **Upcoming School Committee Meetings:**

June 11, 6pm                      Joint School Committee Meeting, Ripley Conference Room 4

The School Committees will be voting to adopt a schedule of meetings for the 2024-25 school year at their business meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

Zoom links are available on the District website, [www.concordps.org](http://www.concordps.org).

**Sign up for School Committee News** Individuals who are interested in knowing more about the role of the School Committees as well as receiving the latest updates on school budgets and informational events are encouraged to enroll in the "School Committee News" Subscriber List. These updates will include timely information such as meeting dates and agendas, minutes, event announcements, and the School Committee Report. Individuals can sign up at [www.concordps.org/school\\_committee\\_subscriber\\_list](http://www.concordps.org/school_committee_subscriber_list). Individuals interested in the Concord Middle School Building Committee (a Town of Concord Committee) can find updates and all relevant materials at <https://www.concordps.org/cms-building-project/cms-building-committee-updates/>

### **The School Committees Contact Information**

**Concord School Committee** Alexa Anderson (Vice-Chair Regional School Committee), Andrew Herchek (Vice-Chair Concord School Committee), Tracey Marano, Cynthia Rainey, and Carrie Rankin (Chair of Concord School Committee)

**Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee** is comprised of the five Concord School Committee members as well as two Carlisle representatives, Julie Viola (Chair, Regional School Committee), and Brian Waterson

**METCO Representatives** Domingos DaRosa, and Ayesha Lawton

**Student Representatives** Zariah Alves, Maddie Clancy, and Felicity Zhang

Individuals can link to the School Committees' emails on the Districts' home page at [www.concordps.org](http://www.concordps.org). Or, you can email the Concord Public School Committee at [concordschoolcommittee@concordps.org](mailto:concordschoolcommittee@concordps.org) and the Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee at

[concordcarliseschoolcommittee@concordps.org](mailto:concordcarliseschoolcommittee@concordps.org). Interested individuals are encouraged to sign up for the School Committees subscriber's list which is also on the District's web page.