



Advisory Committee MEETING MINUTES

September 12, 2025
120 Meriam Road, Room 3
Concord, MA
12 p.m. – 1 p.m.

Members present: Pamela Hegarty, Carlene Hempel (secretary), Anne Irza-Leggat, Polly Meyer, Alison Pray, Rita Raychaudhuri

Members absent: Ed Bernard, Kimberly Kossman

Call to order: Jill Weintraub, director of Adult and Community Education, called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Minutes: On a motion made by Carlene Hempel and seconded by Anne Irza-Leggat, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Regular Business:

Book Shop Display: Jill thanked Rita for helping to install the window display at The Concord Bookshop.

Program Updates:

- Driver's Education: One new instructor is on board. She started over the summer and has already given lessons and taught in the classroom. Another instructor has recently passed her exam at the Registry of Motor Vehicles and is almost ready to start working. One additional instructor is waiting to take her RMV exam. Also, one instructor left on Sept. 1 Jill said this is not worrisome because of the other recent hires. Jill said 80 new students participated in four classes over the summer. Driving lessons were active Tuesday through Sunday throughout the summer.

Also, there are new regulations: All classes must be in person, which is already the case in Concord for students. What is new is that all parent classes must also be in person, as dictated by the RMV. Currently, Concord-Carlisle offers parent classes remotely. Jill said this is not ideal because more parents were active on remote classes than with in-person classes. (Parent classes are valid for five years.) Jill said parents are not thrilled to attend a class at 7 p.m. and vastly preferred the remote option. Sept. 15 is the final remote class before all future offerings shift to in-person only. As a point of information, Jill mentioned that classes at CC are capped at 30 for both students and parents.

- IMSCC Music Program: The music program welcomed Laryssa Doohovskoy, new program coordinator, on July 1. There were 66 students this summer in lessons, which is a small decline from where they have been. Jill said this is likely because families are

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back to full vacation mode, post Covid. New flute and piano teachers were hired over the summer. There's a substitute for the oboe instructor, who is out of work for personal reasons. IMSCC is looking for a string bass instructor, which always proves to be a challenge. Also, the system has posted for a new vocal teacher. Also, Laryssa is working on a studio "showcase" for the fall. She's asked all instructors to nominate a student to highlight. The event will be in the winter.

Fall Highlights:

- **English Language Learner (ELL) Program:** Jill said the ELL program was not intending to run the English as a Second Language program for a number of reasons. However, she received a call from Emerson Health offering funds to restart the program. The offer was \$5,000, which has funded two levels of ELL, beginner and intermediate. So far, the classes are not full.
- **Parent Education:** The program has received a small grant of \$3,250 from the Concord Education Fund to underwrite programs. Also, a parent put together a proposal on tools for thriving in the technical age – a year-long agenda developed around cell phones and teens including an event during which digital expert Jean Twenge will speak on Oct. 28. Also, the high school and middle schools have partnered – in addition to a small grant from Emerson Hospital and Concord Education Fund – to support "Tools for Thriving in the Tech Age." Also, there will be a panel discussion on Nov. 19 entitled "The Anxious Generation: What Now," during which State Rep. Simon Cataldo will speak among others.

Registration and budget numbers FY 24 and FY 25: We are in a good place for registrations. Adult education is doing well as of July 31. Village University and Armchair Travel are, as usual, the biggest hits. Jill suspects there will be some class cancellations due to low enrollment. But in general, the numbers are looking healthy. As of Friday, Sept. 12, there were 230 students. For driver's ed and three of four classes were full. One afterschool class starts in two weeks, and another class starts in October. As of Sept. 12, only one adult had purchased the package. Revenue, in general, has been down a bit, but Jill thinks this will turn around.

Advisory Committee Projects: Jill asked the group what members want to work with or on for the coming year. Polly recommended a one-night fly fishing course. Jill thought that was a good idea. She mentioned that the "fitness walks" have been very popular and noted that self-defense classes are on the slate for future classes.

Other Business:

1/ Stefanie Cloutier, continuing education coordinator, is retiring as of Dec. 1. She will still be an instructor. The position calls for about 25 hours a week.

2/ There is still an open advisory committee seat for a Carlisle representative. Jill has a lead and will follow up.

The meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 17, at noon at Meriam Road, Room 3.

Respectfully submitted,
Carlene Hempel, secretary