

# CONCORD EDUCATION UPDATE



CCGS Newsletter – October, 2024

## Join The School Committee!

Are you interested in making a difference for our kids, our schools, our teachers and our community?

This coming Spring, there will be two positions open. Please reach out if you are interested in running.

## Join Us in Supporting Concord Schools

Learn more about our group [here](#) and feel free to join us! Also please pass our newsletter and website along to interested and involved Concordians or fellow parents looking to help support our GREAT Concord Schools!

## TOWN MEETING STUDY COMMITTEE SURVEY: FEEDBACK NEEDED BY OCT 31.

CCGS has been involved in many education and school-related issues and votes that have been resolved/approved at **Town Meeting**. The new middle school approval in the face of resistance, over-riding the FinCom and approving reasonable school budgets in 2023 and 2024, etc. Attending TM is VERY important, but we know many parents are simply unable to come.

The [Town Meeting Study Committee](#) was formed to review town meeting processes and to formulate recommendations to make TM more **inclusive, effective, and responsive to the needs and desires of the town**. The aim of the survey is to understand your barriers to participating and your opinion on potential improvements. The survey is anonymous and will take just 5-10 minutes to complete. Please take the survey: [HERE](#)

If you have suggestions for improving or changing or increasing (your) participation in Town Meeting, this is your chance! The survey closes October 31.



## NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The project remains within budget, the cash flow is within forecasted levels, and contingency levels remain healthy with 59% of hard and 70% of soft cost contingency. Construction is more than 70% complete for Phase 1. The building is fully enclosed and current activities include interior framing, mechanical installation such as plumbing and electrical elements, and cabinet installation. The gymnasium and auditorium are the final portions of the building and recently had their concrete floors installed.

The timeline is very tight but expected to meet the goal of allowing move-in during the school break in February of 2025. Contingency plans are being discussed to perform work on Saturdays, and to move-in while the auditorium is being completed.

The next meeting of the Concord Middle School Building Committee will occur in October 17. All meetings begin at 7:30am and occur via Zoom. Interested individuals can find all relevant materials regarding the Concord Middle School Building Committee including meeting dates, agendas, zoom links, and minutes at [www.cmsbuildingproject.org](http://www.cmsbuildingproject.org). For questions and comments, individuals can email the Committee at [msbc@concordps.org](mailto:msbc@concordps.org) or utilize the form on the web page, [www.cmsbuildingproject.org](http://www.cmsbuildingproject.org).

## **RANKINGS OUT: CCHS RANKED #5 OUT OF 150 AREA HIGH SCHOOLS, #1 FOR STEM IN THE STATE!**

The public high school [rankings](#) are out and CCHS is in the **97% percentile of 150 Boston-area schools**, scoring a #5 ranking! CCHS ranked higher than nearby Wellesley, Lexington, Hingham, Acton, Bedford, Winchester and Brookline. Last year, CCHS was ranked 28th, due to some faulty reporting of numbers. Congrats to all-involved.

As [reported in the Bridge](#), Concord-Carlisle High School is the **#1 high school for STEM in Massachusetts** and No. 13 nationwide, per U.S. News & World Report's rankings of public schools.

In the Bridge, SC Chair Carrie Rankin said school officials and the SC consider more factors than just rankings when looking at performance. She specifically singled out the district's emphasis on student mental health — something the rankings don't measure. "The ranking is an important data point, but it's not how we're judging our effectiveness as a school," Rankin said.

## **ELLEN GARRISON BUILDING SIGNAGE UPDATE**

It seems the positive cooperation and teamwork between the schools and the Robbins House and representatives from the "Stand Up for Ellen" group in town is ongoing and deepening. This is very good news. In recent [Bridge coverage](#), the sign design and placement is described and Superintendent Hunter is quoted on the issue as saying, "We're talking about a number of things. Some are focused toward maximizing our resources through the Robbins House, embedding through the curriculum, looking where we can enhance our conversations about her."

Mike Williams, a vocal proponent of naming the new school for Ellen Garrison has had a series of meetings with Dr. Hunter on signage and other ways to honor Ellen Garrison, which he describes as "remarkably constructive". He is quoted in the Sept 22 article as saying, "It's never been about the name. The value is what happens in the building and how we inform the minds of the children."

Here is the proposed signage:

