

CONCORD EDUCATION UPDATE

November 2025



Celebrating Ellen Garrison: Tomorrow Night

Mark your calendars for an inspiring community event [tomorrow, Tuesday November 4th at 6:30 p.m. at the Ellen Garrison Building](#). Sponsored by The Robbins House and led by Playbook Student Leaders from Concord Middle School, this special evening will celebrate the remarkable legacy of Ellen Garrison through a screening of "Ellen Garrison: Scenes From an Activist Life" (produced by Half the History Productions). The program will feature actor and ABA tutor Victoria Lee portraying Ellen Garrison, bringing her powerful words and story to life. This all-ages event is open to students from across the district as well as the broader Concord and Boston communities, promising an engaging celebration of history, activism, and unity. Tours of the Ellen Garrison Building will be available at 6:00 p.m. and immediately following the main program for those interested in exploring this significant space.

October 22nd School Committee Meeting Recap

The [October 22nd SC meeting](#) was the first held in the new Ellen Garrison Building. However, the meeting began on a serious note as SC chairs addressed the recent **scarecrow incident** that targeted Dr. Hunter, emphasizing that such intimidation is completely unacceptable and currently under police investigation.

Six speakers offered public comment in **strong support of the schools and administration**, while firmly condemning the ongoing negativity and harassment from a small group of critics—many of whom don't have children in the school system. Recent [letters to the editor](#) echo these sentiments.

The meeting also celebrated significant achievements, including a presentation by the CMS Student Building Committee, who shared their experiences. The middle school building committee was praised and it was announced that the building was about \$7M under budget—an unprecedented outcome that earned praise for Dr. Hunter's and the building committee's exceptional leadership and project management.

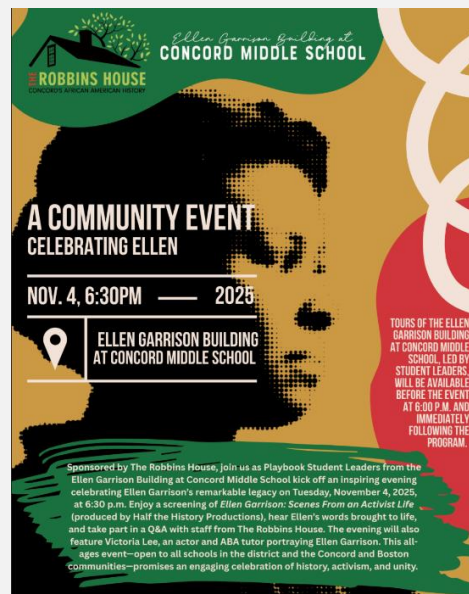
Ellen Garrison in the Middle School Student Experience

At the October 22nd School Committee meeting, Superintendent Hunter provided an encouraging update on how the middle school is meaningfully incorporating Ellen Garrison into both curriculum and student experience. Beyond organizing the upcoming community celebration with The Robbins House, the administration is working to ensure students truly understand who Ellen Garrison was and why her legacy matters. Plans are underway to display meaningful quotes from Ellen Garrison along with her biography on a wall within the school, ensuring that students who walk through the building daily know the remarkable woman behind the name. All students will soon view a video about Ellen's life during homebase sessions, connecting her story directly to the school's Playbook Initiative.

Our Take: The administration's approach demonstrates they are taking community feedback seriously, creating a lasting educational impact that goes far beyond simply naming the building after Ellen Garrison.

Correction

In the last newsletter we mentioned that "According to the Bridge, the "scarecrow" figure was hung on metal crosspieces, with red spray paint on the front that said "Fire Liar Hunter". However, the [Bridge article](#) did not mention the color of the spray paint. We apologize for this oversight.



How to Get Involved:

Here are some things you can do to involve yourself in supporting our great schools, administrators, and elected volunteers:



Please **support Dr. Hunter**. On Sunday November 2, Dr. Hunter sent a [community message](#) that was very concerning. More “scarecrows” were found and additional police presence has been assigned to our schools. Please consider conveying your support. Email her directly: lhunter@concordps.org

- Please **write a letter** supporting our SC and our schools and our Superintendent and rejecting the hostile politics of retribution. Submit Bridge letters [here](#). Write the Select Board [here](#). Write the School Committee [here](#). Share positive experiences and let your voice be heard.
- **Please attend and speak at the next School Committee Meeting, Wednesday November 5th.** 6:00PM at the back of the Ripley Building. Agenda and zoom link will be made available [here](#)
- **Join us!** Our goal is to inform and educate on issues related to education in Concord. Please pass this newsletter on to involved parents and fellow Concordians and/or [join our mailing list here](#).