

CONCORD EDUCATION UPDATE



October 2025

Another Threatening Effigy, Found on Tracey Marano's Street

Unfortunately, over the weekend, a second “scarecrow” “display” was placed “targeting Superintendent Laurie Hunter”, this time on SC Chair Tracey Marano’s street. According to the Bridge, the “scarecrow” figure was hung on crosspieces, with spray paint on the front that said “Fire Liar Hunter”. A sign on the other side said, in part, **“Hatchets for Hunter!”**. Images were apparently shared by neighbor Denise Jantzen who found the “display” and took pictures and called the police. Bridge [coverage](#).

Our Take: Disagreements about policy, procedure, and vision for our schools are legitimate. Constant public attacks on our elected citizen volunteer School Committee members and our Superintendent, who is a vetted town employee, are not.

SC Chair Andrew Herchek said it well: *“This anonymous act of intimidation is deeply disturbing and unacceptable, and it appears to be escalating, as the message this time included references to violence... Concord is better than this. We will not allow fear and violence to dictate the administration of our schools.”*

SC Meeting Recent Public Comments: Repeated Assertions of “Broken Trust”, Failure

At the Oct 8 SC meeting, public comment included more assertions by a group of residents who do not have CPS students of a “broken trust” between the schools and the community. From the meeting:

- A speaker links **the naming of middle school** as the impetus for the “broken trust”, saying, “that’s the cause. That’s where it began”. Watch [HERE](#).
- Another speaker reads this [letter](#), which also mentions the **middle school naming** as “the failure to honor the clear wishes of the community”.
- At the SC meeting on August 20, speakers without children in CPS also assert failure and “broken trust”. Watch [HERE](#).

Our Take: Loudly and aggressively repeating that our school system is failing our students and that our Superintendent is failing “the community”, does not make it true. What it does do, however, is foster a hostile and intimidating environment for school leaders. This pattern mimics the grievance politics that we see nationally and should be vigorously rejected by all who care about civility. If parents disagree with the assertions of failure being made by this group at SC meetings and in the Bridge, they **MUST** speak up and offer alternate perspectives, including stories of success and positive experiences.

Superintendent Hunter’s Update: Oct 3 (excerpted)

CPS continues to be recognized for strong academic performance...Both districts are classified as “Meeting or Exceeding Targets,” and are ranked among the top performing districts in the state.

- ELA & Civics: 83% 8th grade met or exceeded grade level expectations...(vs. 11% statewide).
- Math: 75% of 5th graders met or exceeded expectations.
- Science & Technology/Engineering: 76% of 5th and 8th graders met or exceeded expectations.
- Graduation & Engagement: Four-year graduation rate 96.4%, dropout rates (0.2%).



CPS is committed to addressing achievement gaps through an equity-driven, data-informed approach aligned to the four pillars of our strategic plan. Entire update [HERE](#).

Superintendent Hunter's Update: Oct 10 (excerpted)

Moments from this week, as reflections of our school cultures.

- Unified Basketball at CCHS: special education students and their peers compete with visiting teams.
- The Playbook Initiative at CMS presents an anti-Semitic scenario involving a swastika for students to discuss the impact/role in preventing it.
- Recognizing and celebrating National Coming Out Day.
- The new Thoreau playground is our most accessible.
- The CCHS Black Student Union presented at the School Committee meeting, highlighting their work to improve the entire school community.
- On Monday, the K-5 faculty attended the first of two trainings in anti-Semitism. CMS and CCHS will participate in the coming month.

While issues can and do still arise, it seems important to note what is working. Entire update [HERE](#).

Upset About All This? Get Involved:

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

- Please **write a letter** to the Bridge or the SC or the Select Board (or all three), 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 SC meeting tonight, Wednesday Oct 22.** 6:00PM at the back of the Ripley Building. Agenda and zoom link [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](#).

New: Community Corner

This section contains education-related items, not affiliated with CCGS.

"A Call to Action for Concord Parents"

A new email is going around, outlining issues and containing a call to action by/for parents, with a petition link. Several CCGS members have received it. In part, it says:

"Since the spring, a small but vocal group of older residents without children in schools have been attending nearly every School Committee meeting to air grievances that paint a distorted picture of our schools, our students, and our leadership... They say with authority that the "community" has lost trust and faith in both our elected School Committee members and our Superintendent... This is in stark contrast with the position of the vast majority of parents who have tremendous confidence in both. Our students, teachers, and administrators deserve a community that stands behind them -- not one that tears them down."

- ☐ **Attend and speak** at an upcoming School Committee meeting. The next meeting is **this Wednesday, October 22nd**.
- ☐ **Write a letter** to The Concord Bridge highlighting your confidence in our schools, School Committee, and Superintendent Hunter. Submit letters [here](#).
- ☐ **Sign the petition:** "We must stand united to ensure Laurie Hunter remains in her role, continuing the good work she's doing for our students. Our community's future is brighter with her leadership—let's keep it that way. Sign the petition to show your support and help safeguard the future of education in our districts." [Petition: Support Our Superintendent Dr. Hunter](#)

While CCGS is not affiliated with this email campaign (or the petition), we are encouraged that new voices are being activated and community members feeling compelled to act/speak out, in support of our schools/admin/SC.



The Concord
Education Fund

SIP, SWEAT & SHOP TO SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS

NOVEMBER 13-23, 2025

Thursday, Nov 13: Doe + Fawn, Fiorella's 4-7pm

Friday, Nov. 14: Happy on Main

Sunday, Nov. 16: Orangetheory 12:30pm

Tuesday, Nov. 18: Comella's (dinner)

Thursday, Nov. 20: J. McLaughlin 12-4pm

Saltbox Kitchen 4-7pm

Sunday, Nov. 23: On the Mat Yoga Studio, 12:30pm



A PERCENTAGE OF ALL PURCHASES FUELS INNOVATIVE LEARNING



FIORELLA'S



COMELLA'S
Eat like our family.

J. McLAUGHLIN



HAPPY
on main

About Concord Community for Great Schools: [Link](#)

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