

CONCORD EDUCATION UPDATE

December 2025



Year End Greeting

As the year comes to a close, we extend our gratitude to all of the teachers, administrators, volunteers, and staff who make our Concord School Community Great. This year has seen challenges and wonderful community successes, and through it all, we are grateful to have such a professional team of individuals supporting our students and families. We hope that everyone has a restful holiday break.

Person Alleged to be Responsible for “Scarecrows” Identified and Charged

Read The Bridge [coverage](#) about this case.

Our Take: These were acts of intimidation against Dr. Hunter. While there is [some dialogue](#) within the community that these acts are an exercise of free speech, staff and students alike were fearful during this escalating situation. Our community should never condone or excuse behavior targeting and intimidating any town employee or elected official.

CPC Funds the CCHS Amenities Building, Public Works Green Lights Sewer Hookup

With a December 2, 2025 vote of 8:1 (1 abstention), the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) voted to fund the \$1.4M cost (Concord's share) of the CCHS Amenities Building, contingent upon the approval of a needed appeal regarding the sewer hookup by the Public Works Commission on Dec 11, which was approved by unanimous vote. It was disclosed that CCHS is only using 12% of its permitted sewer flow, so the addition of the flow from the amenities building should still be well-below the total threshold. The CPC has over \$4M available and was able to fund this and the other requests it received. Watch the discussion and vote [here](#). From here, the CPC warrant needs to be approved at Town Meeting and Carlisle needs to (re) approve its share of the funding.

Ellen Garrison Building Wins Architectural Sustainability Award

“On behalf of our jury, we are proud to present the **Merit and Sustainability Award to the Ellen Garrison Building at Concord Middle School**...What truly distinguished the project was its deep connection to nature. The building’s orientation and massing invite daylight and views into learning spaces, while outdoor classrooms and landscaped courtyards extend education into the natural environment. The use of natural materials and thoughtful site integration foster a sense of tactile and ecological learning, making this building not only a model of sustainability, but a nurturing and inspiring place for students.” - *Jury Comments, The American Institute of Architects, Philadelphia Chapter [Read More](#)*

SC Meeting Recaps

Two school committee meetings have been held since our last newsletter.

The [November 5th](#) meeting welcomed representatives from both the CCHS Jewish Student Union and volunteers from Concord-Carlisle Against Antisemitism (CCAA). The CCHS Jewish Student Union is a newly formed organization that not only provides a forum for student discussions around Jewish culture and history but also seeks to provide educational opportunities within the school community. Both groups shared important updates about their efforts within the town and schools alike. Importantly CCAA recently secured a \$20,000 grant to implement its “Love Thy Neighbor” program. As part of that initiative, CCAA will be working with District leaders on programming for schools in Concord and Carlisle. The groups acknowledged the actions the district is taking to combat anti-semitism.

The [November 19th](#) meeting highlighted the [4th annual Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging \(DEIB\) Assembly](#) that took place at the High School on November 13th and served as a powerful reminder of the many voices and identities that make our school community vibrant. The assembly was unfortunately marred by the discovery of a white power symbol at the school that same day. While this incident was directly and immediately addressed by CCHS Co-Principals in a

message to the community (and they were lauded for this message), it was not raised at the SC meeting until brought up by SC Member Michael Williams and an emotional conversation ensued.

Our Take: In moments like this, transparency and accountability - grounded in compassion—are essential. The schools can and must respect confidentiality and student privacy laws while also providing clear, proactive communication when acts of hate occur. Naming the harm and acknowledging its impact (including the disciplinary response in general terms) does not compromise confidentiality; it strengthens trust.

Superintendent Hunter's Update: Dec 5 (excerpted)

In last weeks' Superintendent's message, Dr. Hunter describes how the district makes decisions about snow days. Highlights also included:

Recap of the new community reading days where town officials, members of the police and fire departments, parents, and other volunteers joined classrooms to read. [Learn more.](#)

Overview of the new ELA Literacy Program EL Education including a [video](#) that explains more about the new program and implementation plan.

You can find the entire update [HERE](#).

Get Involved:

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

- Attend school committee meetings to learn more about the priorities and key activities of the district. **The next SC Meeting is this coming Wednesday December 17th at 6PM at the Ripley Building.** The zoom link will be posted soon, on the [agenda center](#).
- Consider **writing a letter** to the Bridge or the SC or the Select Board (or all three) sharing your experiences with the schools. Submit Bridge letters [here](#). Write the Select Board [here](#). Write the School Committee [here](#). Let your voice be heard.
- **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](#).

Community Corner

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

Concord Bridge School Activity Highlights:

[8th Grade Civics Project](#)

[Letter to the Editor about Ellen Garrison Event](#)

[Blanding's Turtle Project](#)

[CMS Charity and Service Write Up](#)

