

Correspondence received by the Concord Select Board
Week Ending – September 16, 2024

1. Michael A. Williams 1284 Sudbury Road
2. Jennifer Turner and Michael A Williams The Robbins House Stand Up for Ellen

September 11, 2024

Board Chair Mary Hartman

Terri Ackerman

Mark Howell

Cameron McKennitt

Wendy Rovelli

22 Monument Square,

Concord, MA 01742

Dear Ms. Hartman,

Since July 2024, Superintendent Hunter, members of her staff, representatives of the Robbins House, and the Friends of Ellen, have met to collaborate on how to best instill Ellen Garrison's character into our new middle school, the Ellen Garrison Building at Concord Middle School. Given the nature of the conversation this matter evoked in our community, it is significant that all parties have joined to work constructively toward a common goal.

We offer our thanks to the Select Board for the vision it has fostered of an expansive and inclusive Concord. In addition, to acknowledge the significance of the above mentioned parties' cooperation before our Town, we offer the attached statement.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Williams

1284 Sudbury Rd. Concord



**Stand Up
For Ellen**

PROGRESS AT HONORING ELLEN GARRISON

Over the past two months, Dr. Laurie Hunter, Superintendent of Concord Public Schools, along with Andrew Nyamekye, Concord-Carlisle Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, Jennifer Turner, Executive Director of the Robbins House, and Michael A. Williams, representing the Friends of Ellen Garrison, met at the Superintendent's invitation to collaborate on how to best exemplify Ellen Garrison in the Ellen Garrison Building at Concord Middle School. Our meetings have been substantive and productive. We indeed have made progress.

- We shared enthusiasm for working together at creating community activities celebrating the new building's dedication this Spring.
- We agreed on signage that would appropriately recognize Ellen Garrison both outside the school and within the building at the new school. School staff and Robbins House scholars are collaborating on how Ellen will be portrayed within the school.

**THE ELLEN GARRISON BUILDING at
CONCORD MIDDLE SCHOOL**
923 OLD MARLBORO ROAD

- We agreed on the importance of elevating the untold stories of all people whose efforts helped forge our nation.
- We acknowledged that Ellen's ideals and character serve as worthy examples for all our community's students to emulate.

To serve these goals, we agreed to establish a more formal partnership between our schools and the Robbins House to enhance historical support for our school's existing curriculum.

Going forward, we are excited to continue our collaboration to appropriately honor Ellen Garrison, through name and spirit, in our new middle school and beyond. We continue to meet on a regular basis and will provide updates on our continued progress.

Jennifer A. Turner
Executive Director of the Robbins House

Michael A. Williams
on behalf of the Friends of Ellen Garrison