

Correspondence received by the Concord Select Board

Week Ending – August 4, 2025

1. Hope Rubin
2. Tracey Marano

Please note: The Select Board Correspondence has been updated as of January 27, 2025. The letters posted here reflect the views and opinions of the author as recorded in the body of their email. Neither the Select Board nor Town staff have verified or reviewed the contents. The Select Board and the Town do not necessarily agree, condone, support or advocate the ideas expressed in these letters and have not verified any factual statements made in the letters.

July 30, 2025

To the Concord Select Board:

I thank you for your July 28, 2025 meeting. I appreciate the work that you are doing to address antisemitism in Concord. Your discussion of two tracks: reporting and community conversation are good steps forward. I hope that you will work in a decisive and timely way.

As our elected officials, it is important that the reporting system be the responsibility and purview of the Select Board (not DEI), and that it resides in and is owned by the Town of Concord. I recommend that the reporting system be easily accessible to all residents of Concord, and that the data be reported monthly to the community. The purpose of the system needs to be two-fold: information collection and timely enforcement of consequences for antisemitic and racist acts committed by school and town employees, students, and residents of Concord.

Community discussion, education, and galvanization of our community around the topic of antisemitism are important. I suggest that topics include the impact that pervasive antisemitism in our schools has on the Jewish community in Concord. The timing of such sessions should be before or after the High Holy Days. During the 10 days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is not advisable, from a religious perspective.

During public comment at the July 28 meeting, a suggestion was made to convene a Task Force with members of the Concord Jewish community to partner with the Select Board to develop Concord's response to antisemitism. I concur with this suggestion.

As each of you go out into the community, please listen carefully to the Jewish residents in town. Even if we have not directly been subjected to antisemitism in Concord, we are hurting.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and your work.

Sincerely,

Hope Rubin

Saw Mill Rd.

Concord, MA



From: Tracey Marano <tmarano@concordps.org>

Sent: Sunday, August 3, 2025 8:17 PM

To: Mark Howell <markhowell@concordma.gov>; Cameron McKennitt <cmckennitt@concordma.gov>; Mary Hartman <mhartman@concordma.gov>; Paul Boehm <pboehm@concordma.gov>; Wendy Rovelli <wrovelli@concordma.gov>; Kerry Lafleur <klafleur@concordma.gov>; Shannon McAndrew <smcandrew@concordma.gov>

Subject: Special Town Election Voter Information

Good evening,

Below please find a letter that I have submitted to the Concord Bridge. I am deeply concerned about the language used in the CON statement on Ballot Question 2 for the Amenities Building. I am concerned about the inflammatory nature of the language but more importantly how the author of the statement was chosen and the process for reviewing statements.

I would like to understand the process and selection of Pro and Con writers for both ballot questions and the process of reviewing the appropriateness of the statements. Thank you.

To the Editor:

I am currently Chair of the Concord Carlisle Regional School Committee; however, I am writing this letter on my own behalf. I was extremely disappointed in the language used in the recently published Voter Information Mailing that was sent to Concord residents for the upcoming Special Town Election. I found the statements relating to the proposed Amenities Building misleading, provocative, and symptomatic of a more troubling trend in our local politics.

The CON statement begins with the inflammatory and divisive claim: “*Concord taxpayers are being bullied to ratify an overpriced bathroom building.*” It includes a list of complaints that are confusing and misrepresent the project’s scope and purpose.

This is not just an “*overpriced bathroom.*” It is a permanent, ADA-compliant facility that ensures accessibility, dignity, and legal compliance.

One especially troubling statement—“*Disabled visitors do not need 1800 square feet and 16 toilets*”—shows a misunderstanding of both code requirements and the everyday needs of individuals with disabilities. The building’s size and fixtures are based on plumbing codes tied to stadium capacity—not arbitrary choices.

Who are we as a community if we don't prioritize accessibility? This project passed at Town Meeting with well over a two-thirds majority. A CCHS alum and town resident spoke passionately in support, advocating for those whose needs are often overlooked. ADA compliance is not optional. Beyond the law, we have a moral obligation to provide clean, safe, and dignified restrooms for all. This is equity.

Phrases such as "*bullying*" and "*self-serving*" should be unacceptable rhetoric. People of goodwill can disagree on things without resorting to name calling and personal attacks. The fact that this language was approved by the Town demonstrates that this is now acceptable practice.

Please vote **YES** for permanent, ADA-compliant restrooms. Let's do better—because we can, and because we should.

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Tracey Marano
Chair, Concord Carlisle School Committee
Concord School Committee