



# Coolidge Corner Naming Process

Presented by the Bee-lievers of Change



# Overview

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- In May 2018, Brookline Town Meeting Members voted to change the name of the Edward Devotion School.
- Changing the name reaffirms Brookline's ongoing commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and more accurately recognize the contributions of people of color to the town's rich history.



## Overview

- The naming process was a collaboration between the Town of Brookline, the Public Schools of Brookline, and the Brookline community.
- Naming process developed with input from the Petitioners Group, the Task Force on School Names, the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Relations, and a working group consisting of: representatives from CCS families, Petitioners Group, CCS leadership, and district leadership.





## Summary of Nominations Process

- **Sept. 2018 - Jan. 2019:** Broad public outreach about process and how to submit nominations:
  - All community members invited to participate in the process
- **Nov. - Dec. 2018:** Formation of Nominations Committee:
  - Comprised of students from CCS and BHS. Supported by Principal Jennifer Buller and Vice Principal Saeed Ola
- **Jan. - March 2019:** Nominations Committee reviews all nominations and identifies semi-finalists.
- **April 2019:** Community input on semi-finalists reviewed by Nominations Committee to identify finalist names.



# Summary of Nominations Process

- From December 10 to January 23, the Brookline community submitted nominations for a new name via paper and online forms.
- We received 119 unique nominations from more than 250 submissions

## Coolidge Corner School Renaming Process February 2019 Nominations

A. Phillip Randolph	Kitty Dukakis
Adam, Peter, and Prince School	Lewis Hayden
Adelaide Cromwell Elementary School	Lucy Parsons
Albert Scott	Macon Holling Allen
Amelia Boynton Robinson	Madeline Albright School
Anne Hutchinson	Malcolm X
Anil Gavande	Martin Binner
Audre Lorde	Martin
Augusta Braxton Baker	Marvin Minsky
Barack Obama School	Mary McLeod Bethune
Batson-Trilling School	Massasoit Sachem
Bayard Rustin School	Mehnes Cass
Buckminster Fuller School	Metacomb
Cesar Chavez	Michael S. Dukakis School
Charles Taylor School	Michelle Obama
Charlotte Hawkins Brown	Miriam Benjamin
Chief Wawanotewat	MLK
The Claudette Colvin School	Muddy River School
Clareville	Nelson Mandela School
Conan O'Brien	Nelson and Winnie Mandela School
Coolidge Corner School	Nergis Mavalala
Crispus Attucks	Patience Monequaasin School
Daisy Lee Gatson Bates	Peace School at Coolidge Corner
David Walker	Phillips Wheatley
Deborah Sampson	Prince Hall
Deval Patrick	Rebecca Lee Crumpler School
Devo	The Reconciliation School
Devotion	Reverend Thomas Paul
Devotion School at Coolidge Corner	Robert F. Kennedy School
Devotion-Hayes School	Robert I. Sperber Elementary (R.I.S.E.)
Dolores Clara Fernandez Huerta	Robinson School
Edith Weiss	Roland Hayes
Edith Pearlman School	Roland Hayes Devotion School
Edward Brooke	Rosemary Kennedy
Edward Devotion	Ruby Bridges
Edward Garrison Walker	Ruth Baker Ginsburg School
Elizabeth Freeman School	Ruth Batson School
Ella Baker	Sareed Ola
Ellen Craft School	Sankofa School of Brookline
Embrace Learning School	Sarah and William Bowditch
Ethel & Irving Weiss School	Saul Bellow School
Ethel Weiss	Schooly McSchoolface
Ernest Caverly	Senior Devotion
Eunice Kennedy	Siddhartha
Excellence and Devotion School	Sojourner Truth
Florida Ruffin Ralley	Susan Paul
Fred Toyosaburo Morematsu	Sybil Holmes School
Frederick Douglass School	Taylor
Frederick Law Olmsted School	Ted Kennedy School
Gerald Kaplan	Thomas Brady School
Harriet Tubman School	Theodore Roosevelt School
Hayes Wilson School	Thurgood Marshall
Henry Monroe	Tim O'Sullivan School
Horatio Kinner School	Tiquantum (or Squantia)
Ira B. Wells	Victoria Jackson Gray Adams
JFK Leadership School	W. E. B. Du Bois
John F. Kennedy School	Weiss School
John Woodrow Wilson	William Edward (W.E.B.) Dubois
Kathy Robinson	William Bowditch School
	Yo-Yo Ma

## Overview

Student Leadership is at the center of the nomination process.

- Coolidge Corner School invited their 3rd-8th grade students to apply to be leaders on the naming process.
- On November 30, a group of PSB staff selected 14 students to be on the Naming Committee. They would review all nominations submitted for the new school name and decide the finalists to be recommended.





# Bee-lievers of Change



## Bee-lievers of Change





## Bee-lievers of Change

- In December and January, the nominations committee participated in training sessions designed to support them in their work and help them learn how to collaborate.
- Students also met the original petitioners, Deborah Brown and Anne Greenwald, Dr. Barbara Brown from Hidden Brookline, and Senior Director for Educational Equity Dr. Kalise Wornum



## Bee-lievers of Change

What we learned during the nomination process...

- Local figures that we may not have had the chance to study
- How committees work and how to work in collaboration with others

What we experienced during the nomination process...

- Met and worked with different people from the school and town communities
- How to politely disagree and build consensus



# Renaming Nights



## Renaming Nights

- The Bee-lievers of Change spent most of February and March reviewing the 119 unique nominations and selecting 15 semi-finalist names.
- Students researched and vetted each semi-finalist name using a rubric that included the town's naming criteria, the school's core values, and whether or not the name meets any restorative justice criteria.



## Renaming Nights

- Through the Renaming Nights, the names were presented to the community on April 9, April 11, and April 23.
- Participants learned about each semi-finalist from the Bee-lievers of Change and were given an opportunity to provide input on the 15 names.
- 120 paper forms + 125 online forms received in second round of feedback.

# Renaming Nights

THE BEE-LIEVERS OF CHANGE AND STUDENTS FROM THE  
COOLIDGE CORNER SCHOOL PRESENT

## COOLIDGE CORNER SCHOOL RENAMING NIGHTS

Learn more about the semi-finalist names and provide  
feedback to our student committee!

THURSDAY, APRIL 11 - PUBLIC LIBRARY OF BROOKLINE  
(MAIN BRANCH), HUNNEMAN HALL,  
361 WASHINGTON STREET - 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

TUESDAY, APRIL 23 - BROOKLINE HIGH SCHOOL,  
MLK ROOM, 115 GREENOUGH STREET -  
6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

This is an exciting opportunity for Brookline and the school  
community to work together to choose a new name for the  
Coolidge Corner School. We welcome everyone's participation!  
Visit [www.brookline.k12.ma.us/renameccs](http://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/renameccs) for more information.



**BROOKLINE**

COOLIDGE CORNER SCHOOL RENAMING SEMI-FINALIST PROFILE



**AUDRE LORDE:  
WRITER & ACTIVIST**  
By Frederick Wong

Audre Lorde was a poet, novelist, and essayist who wrote about race, class, and gender. She was a powerful voice for marginalized communities and a pioneer in the field of Black feminism. Her work has inspired generations of writers and activists.

She was a member of the Audre Lorde Project, a community-based organization that provides support and resources for Black women and girls. Her legacy continues to inspire and empower people today.

"It was not fire while my woman is alive, a fire without her children are very different from the earth."

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT [WWW.BROOKLINE.K12.MA.US/RENAMECCS](http://WWW.BROOKLINE.K12.MA.US/RENAMECCS)





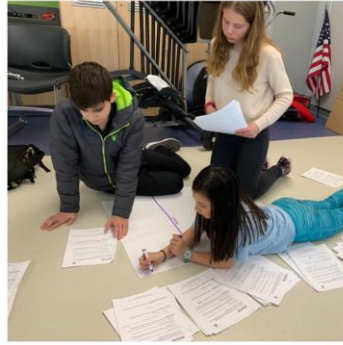
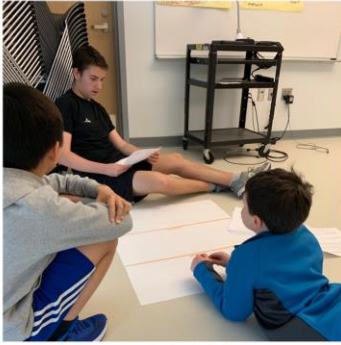
## Renaming Nights

Themes from the community...

- From Brookline and/or Greater Boston area
- Someone who supports education
- Did something to positively impact their community
- Someone who personified the school motto of work hard, be kind, help others



# Renaming Nights





# Presentation of Finalist Names

## Ruth Batson



One of Ruth Batson's most memorable accomplishments was challenging the all white Boston School Committee. She fought for equal opportunities for all people. Batson also pointed out that schools with a high percentage of black students had poor funding and horrible school conditions.

She was also the executive director of METCO Inc., Chairwoman of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, the first black woman on the Democratic National Committee, and the first woman elected president of National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) of the New England Regional Conference. Batson also studied at the Nursery Training School of Boston and later received a Master of Education degree from Boston University in 1976.

# Roland Hayes



Singer and composer Roland Hayes was born in Curryville, Georgia, on June 3, 1887 and lived in Brookline for nearly fifty years. His mother, Fanny Hayes, was a former slave who worked as tenant farmers to raise her seven children. Hayes became involved in music after spending time in the church choir and attended Fisk University to continue his studies. Hayes joined the Fisk Jubilee Singers and began touring in the US and internationally in the late 1910s and early 1920s. For his performances, he received enthusiastic praise and won the NAACP Spingarn Medal for outstanding achievement by an African American in 1924.

Hayes spent most of the next two decades giving vocal recitals and performing with orchestras throughout the United States and Europe. His performances with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Aeolian Hall in London were instrumental in breaking the color barrier in the music community. In 1948, Hayes published a collection of spirituals known as *My Songs; Aframerican Religious Folk Songs Arranged and Interpreted*. He continued to perform until the age of 85 when he gave his last concert at the Longy School of Music in Cambridge.

## Sybil Holmes



Born in West Bridgewater, MA, Sybil Holmes moved to Brookline where she became a lawyer specializing in contracts, automobile insurance, industrial accidents, and probate law. Holmes first began her political career as a Brookline town meeting member and helped review appropriations and articles on the annual town meeting warrant.

In 1919, Holmes was elected president of the Massachusetts Association of Women Lawyers and was appointed to the state Commission on Unemployment and Minimum Wage shortly after. In 1936, she became the first woman elected to the Massachusetts State Senate. Holmes served for two years as a representative of Brookline.

## Florida Ruffin Ridley



Florida Ruffin Ridley was an African-American civil rights activist, suffragist, teacher, writer, and editor. Born on January 29, 1861, in Boston, her father was the first African-American graduate of Harvard Law School and the first African-American judge. She attended Boston schools and graduated from Boston Teacher's college in 1882. She was the second African-American teacher in Massachusetts. She taught at Grant School and moved to Brookline with her husband in 1896.

Ridley was involved in the women's suffrage movement in the 1920s. She co-founded Society for the Collection of Negro Folklore and several other non-profit organizations, including the National Association of Colored Women Clubs (NACWC) to preserve black culture and history. As a journalist, she edited her mother's newspaper, known as *Women's Era*, and became involved in both the women's suffrage movement and the anti-lynching movement. Through this work, she hoped to connect an understanding of history with social justice work. She believed all races deserved an equal place in society.



# Closing



## Reflections

- “Lots of work . . . but worth it”
- “Lifelong impact”
- “Learned how to work together as a team”
- “Learned how to engage in difficult conversations with people who disagree with you”
- “The work we are doing will not only impact us now, but will have a lasting impact”





# Next Steps



## Naming Process - Overview

1. School Committee gathers community input
2. School Committee votes on name to recommend to the Town Naming Committee
3. Town Naming Committee considers recommendation and may choose to have a public hearing
4. Town Naming Committee makes recommendation to the Select Board, Advisory Committee, and Town Meeting. Warrant Article is submitted. *(Warrant Articles expected to be due in first week of September for November Town Meeting)*
5. Town Meeting must approve recommendation for the school name to be changed



## Naming Process - School Committee

1. School Committee gathers community input
  - Two Listening Sessions -- one at Coolidge Corner School, and one at the Coolidge Corner Library
  - School Committee Public Hearing
2. School Committee votes on name to recommend to the Town Naming Committee

School Committee needs to decide on timeline

- Goal is to complete Listening Sessions and Public Hearing and vote on recommended name by June 21 and submit recommended name to the Town Naming Committee
- Warrant Articles are expected to be due in the first week of September for November Town Meeting



# Curriculum Development

## Two Related Efforts

1. Develop civics unit about civic participation and activism in bringing about change
  - Use the Town process for renaming Devotion School as a case example
  - Highlight the role of citizen activism in local, state and national change
  - Incorporate additional examples to uncover the existence, accomplishments and contributions of local, state, and national leaders that were dismissed, ignored or erased
2. Expand Hidden Brookline curriculum so the study of African American history in Brookline includes, but is not limited to, slavery
3. Present these new materials at a Curriculum Subcommittee meeting in Fall 2019