

Coolidge Corner School Naming Process: Nominations Committee Process and Timeline

Second Call for Applications for the Nominations Committee

In October of 2018, Coolidge Corner School (CCS) Co-Principal Jen Buller called for students to become part of the CCS Naming Process by submitting an application to join the Nominations Committee. During the application window, 34 student applications were submitted, including 25 online applications and 9 applications on paper or video. While there was diversity in the 34 applications received, the initial round of applicants do not fully reflect the diversity at the Coolidge Corner School. Thus a second window will be open for students to submit applications to join the Nominating Committee.

Co-Principal Buller will send a letter to all 3rd-8th grade Coolidge Corner School students during the week of November 12 inviting them to apply for the Nominations Committee. This email will include a link to the online application. Paper copies of the application will be available in the school's main office, Vice Principal Saeed Ola's office, and the guidance offices. Information about applications will also be provided in the weekly PTO newsletter. Dr. Keith Lezama will reach out to METCO students and families. Steps to Success Program Coordinator Jeanette Lindor and Steps to Success Program Advisor JT Lenocho will reach out to Steps to Success students and families. Our SEPAC liaisons will reach out to students with disabilities who would like additional support in the application process, and our district coordinator of English Learner services Mindy Paulo will translate and communicate materials to families of our English learners.

The CCS team will work closely with the deans and associate deans at Brookline High School to recruit Devotion School alums who are currently enrolled at BHS to encourage them to apply for the Nominations Committee.

Staff from Coolidge Corner School will be available to support students with their application at two drop-in sessions on November 20 and November 26 from 2:30 - 3:30pm.

Selection of Students for the Nominations Committee

On November 30, a group of educators will meet to run a double blind lottery to select students for the Nominations Committee. Confirmed members of this group are: Jen Buller, Saeed Ola, Dr. Nicole Gittens, Dr. Keith Lezama, Dr. Kalise Wornum, and JT Lenocho.

All completed applications will be included in this lottery. Principal Buller will notify students and families of their status the evening of November 30th. Students who are not chosen to be a part of the Nominations Committee will be invited to be a part of small working groups that will help plan and support our Renaming Night in April, during which the community will have an opportunity to learn more about the vote on candidates being considered.

On November 12, Co-Principal Buller will invite all CCS staff to join the Selection Committee. All are welcome. Interested staff must confirm their participation in the selection of students with Co-Principal Buller by Tuesday, November 27 and commit to attending all of the meetings scheduled for student selection.

Call for Community Nominations for School Name

In a parallel process, the Public Schools of Brookline will launch the call for the nomination of names for the school. Names can be submitted using an online form and will also be accepted via paper at each school, the three branches of the Brookline Public Library, and in Town Hall. The Public Schools of Brookline and the Town of Brookline Office of Diversity and Inclusion will work together to reach out to the entire community, including those in typically underrepresented groups. In addition to using email and social media, we will work with the Brookline Interactive Group, print and online media, and groups of community members such as neighborhood associations, local clergy, PTOs, Devotion School alumni, and others. Full information will also be posted on the PSB website.

The naming nominations window will be open from December 10, 2018 through January 23, 2019.

The Coolidge Corner Access and Equity Team will screen all school name submissions before submitting them to the Nominations Committee.

Nominations Committee Training Sessions

Over the course of five sessions, students on the Nominations Committee will participate in trainings designed to support them in their work. These sessions are tentatively scheduled to take place on Wednesdays from 1:30-3:00, pending the schedules of BHS students selected to be on the committee. The tentative outline of these trainings is as follows (pending outreach to presenters listed and confirmation of their availability):

- *December 5, 2018: Presentation by the Petitioners*

- In this presentation, the Petitioners, Deborah Brown and Anne Greenwald, will share with students the impetus behind the renaming, explaining why this is important for the Town of Brookline. They will describe how the process has unfolded, and discuss their vision moving forward.

- *December 12, 2018: Hidden Brookline Walking Tour*

- With the insights and knowledge gained by meeting with the Petitioners on December 5, Nominations Committee members need an opportunity to understand the history of slavery in Brookline by participating in a *Hidden Brookline* walking tour. The students must hold the real history of slavery as they work to select the list of finalists to send to the School Committee.

- *December 19, 2018: Team Building and Group Decision Making Processes*

- Given the importance of this work, the students will spend time building a team. This session will teach students how to best function as a collaborative and democratic group where all voices are heard. Jen Buller and Saeed Ola will lead this meeting.

- *January 9, 2019: Difficult Conversations*

- Our Senior Director for Educational Equity, Dr. Kalise Wornum, and a group of BHS Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN) Scholars will lead the Nominations Committee in a workshop on how to have difficult conversations. Students will be given tools and strategies to use while talking about racism. This might include role-playing to prepare for how to respond to questions or comments they receive from students on the committee and from members of the public.

- *January 16, 2019: Launch*

- The Nominations Committee's work is powerful and deeply important. Before students begin reviewing nominations, they will have the opportunity to hear from a respected community leader about the importance of the task ahead of them.

School Name Selection Process *(all dates are tentative)*

The Nominations Committee will tentatively meet weekly on Wednesdays from 1:30-3:00, starting on January 23, 2019, through March 3, 2019. During this selection process, the Nominations Committee will select the names of 10-15 semi-finalists to bring forward for community presentation.

Starting the week of March 13, 2019, through March 27, 2019, all students who applied to be a part of the Nominations Committee will reconvene with the committee. Small groups of students will be assigned to each of the semi-finalist names and will prepare a presentation about that name. Working with community members, posters for each semi-finalist name will be produced in collaboration with community partners so that these semi-finalist names can be presented throughout the community.

On Thursday, April 11, a community forum will be held at the Coolidge Corner School during which students will present the semi-finalist names in a gallery walk format. The entire Town of Brookline will be invited to attend. They will provide feedback and rank their choices for the name of the school, with those votes then tallied for the Nominations Committee. The Nominations Committee will review the feedback and votes, and provide the School Committee with a list of 3 finalists, ranked in order of their preference, on April 26, 2019.

Public Hearing Process

The School Committee will hold two public hearings in May, one in the School Committee Room at Town Hall and the other at the Coolidge Corner School. The School Committee will also provide a digital format for collecting feedback on the finalist names. Using the feedback and input gathered from the public hearings, the School Committee will select one name to forward to the Town of Brookline Naming Committee before the end of June.