

Concord School Board  
**Special Board meeting**  
**April 15, 2020**

Board President Jennifer Patterson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. This was a non-public meeting of the full Board. As this was an emergency meeting to be conducted remotely, with no physical location, Ms. Patterson read the following statement into the record:

As President of the Concord School Board, I find that due to the state of emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

The business we intend to conduct today is necessary due to the need to hire a permanent Superintendent for the District, and the need to appropriately modify the process for doing this so as to ensure that there is ample and appropriate opportunity for the public to meet the candidates. The purpose of today's meeting is for the Board to have a preliminary conversation, in non-public session, with the candidates selected by the screening committee, about how best to conduct the finalist consideration process going forward in light of the Covid-19 emergency, in a manner that is fair and appropriate for the Concord community and the candidates' current districts.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting. Because this is a non-public meeting, we are not providing public access; however, it is our intention to post minutes immediately after the meeting so the public will be aware of the nature of the meeting and the process that will be followed for the next phase of the Superintendent selection process, without disclosing any confidential matters (i.e. names of finalists). The meeting was posted on the District website [sau8.org] in accordance with RSA 91-A.

Roll call/determination of members participating

Ms. Patterson noted that she would take attendance by roll call. She noted that all members were participating remotely, and any votes that taken during this meeting would be done by roll call vote. She asked that, as each member stated their presence, they also stated whether anyone was in the room with them during this meeting, a requirement under the Right-to-Know law. She asked that Board members mute their microphones when not speaking, and that they wait to be recognized.

The following Board members responded that they were present, could speak, could hear others, and that no one was in the room with them: Gina Cannon, Tom Croteau, Chuck Crush, David Parker, Liza Poinier, Jim Richards, Danielle Smith, Jennifer Patterson. Barb Higgins was not present.

Ms. Patterson also noted that Business Administrator Jack Dunn was present at the SAU. NESDEC representative Art Bettencourt was present remotely. Finalist candidates were present remotely; information about them was confidential at that time.

Ms. Patterson made a motion to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II(b) the hiring of any person as a public employee ... . Mr. Croteau seconded the motion.

**The Board voted 8-0 by roll call (Ms. Cannon, Mr. Croteau, Mr. Crush, Mr. Parker, Ms. Poinier, Mr. Richards, Ms. Smith and Ms. Patterson voted aye; Ms. Higgins was not present) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II(b), the hiring of any person as a public employee ... (motioned by Ms. Patterson, seconded by Mr. Croteau).**

Status of Superintendent search process

Mr. Croteau, Mr. Bettencourt and Mr. Dunn provided an update on the Superintendent search process. Following this, Mr. Bettencourt left the meeting

The Board conducted separate discussions with each finalist. These discussions were confidential [see roll call vote, below, to seal this portion of the meeting minutes].

Ms. Higgins joined the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

The Board discussed potential next steps, including the timing of further Board vetting of the Superintendent finalists, the timing of revealing the finalists' names, and the nature and timing of a process for the public to "meet" the finalists, e.g. through "virtual town hall meetings."

Mr. Bettencourt rejoined the meeting for a portion of this discussion.

Ms. Higgins left the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

No votes were taken. It was determined that further discussion of the process would take place in public.

Ms. Patterson made a motion to exit the non-public session. Mr. Richards seconded the motion.

**The Board voted 8-0 by roll call (Ms. Cannon, Mr. Croteau, Mr. Crush, Mr. Parker, Ms. Poinier, Mr. Richards, Ms. Smith and Ms. Patterson voted aye; Ms. Higgins was not present) to exit the non-public session at 8:46 p.m. (motioned by Ms. Patterson, seconded by Mr. Richards).**

Ms. Patterson made a motion to seal that portion of the minutes which included all information regarding the number or identities of the finalist candidates, because of the sensitivity of revealing this information prematurely. Ms. Cannon seconded the motion.

**The Board voted 8-0 by roll call (Ms. Cannon, Mr. Croteau, Mr. Crush, Mr. Parker, Ms. Poinier, Mr. Richards, Ms. Smith and Ms. Patterson voted aye; Ms. Higgins was not present) to seal that portion of the minutes which included all information regarding the number or identities of the finalist candidates, because of the sensitivity of revealing this information prematurely (motioned by Ms. Patterson, seconded by Ms. Cannon).**

Mr. Richards made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Crush seconded the motion.

**The Board voted 8-0 to adjourn (motioned by Ms. Patterson, seconded by Mr. Crush).**

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Patterson, *President and Recorder*