

Concord School Board
Special meeting for scheduling
May 18, 2020

Board members present: Gina Cannon, Barb Higgins, David Parker, Liza Poinier, Jim Richards, Jennifer Patterson

Board members absent: Tom Croteau, Chuck Crush, Danielle Smith

Administrators: Interim Superintendent Frank Bass, Assistant Superintendent Donna Palley, Business Administrator Jack Dunn

Board President Jennifer Patterson called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. and read the following emergency meeting statement:

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 plan the schedule of meetings for the coming month. This meeting takes the place of the Board's regular Executive Committee meeting.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, we are:

a) providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access by other electronic means:

We are utilizing Microsoft Teams for this electronic meeting. All Board members have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone number (925) 391-1169, Conf ID: 389 958 972#, by clicking on the link provided on the sau8.org website, or by watching the meeting on ConcordTV's youtube channel. A recording of the meeting will also be posted on the ConcordTV website.

The Board does not intend to take public comment during this meeting. We do encourage the submission of citizen comments via e-mail at: concordinfo@sau8.org

b) providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting:

We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using Microsoft Teams or telephonically. The meeting and pertinent instructions were posted on the District

website at sau8.org more than 24 hours prior to the meeting and are highlighted at the top of the website.

c) providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access: if anybody has a problem, please call 603 513-9008.

d) adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting: in the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled.

Roll call/determination of members participating

Ms. Patterson noted that all Board members would participate remotely, and any votes that were taken during this meeting would be done by roll call vote. Gina Cannon, Barb Higgins, David Parker, Liza Poinier, Jim Richards, Jennifer Patterson were present, and each indicated that no one else was in the room with them. Chuck Crush, Tom Croteau and Danielle Smith were not present. In addition, interim Superintendent Frank Bass, Assistant Superintendent Donna Palley and Business Administrator Jack Dunn were present.

Proposed agenda for June 1 monthly meeting

Superintendent Bass noted that Larry Prince had reported that most of the vacancies in the District for the upcoming year have been filled; there were a minimal number of positions yet to be filled. He said he would have a comprehensive plan for the CHS graduation on June 13. He and other administrators were reviewing the plan in detail with Concord Police Chief Osgood and would present it to the community a day or two after the June meeting. He mentioned the *Concord Monitor* article about the plan for the start of school, noting that the administration needed to be prepared for the worst-case scenario. He said he had continued to hear positive results about remote learning, although students were beginning to wane nearing the end of a long school year. He said the last day of school would be June 4, but his special online literature class would continue until June 11.

The proposal for an in-depth study of special education services from Nathan Levenson would be reviewed at the June 1 meeting. The cost would be \$75,000.

Mr. Parker asked about the mode of delivery for summer school programs. Donna Palley noted the plan was for remote learning at the beginning of the summer, with the possibility of some in-person work nearer the end of the summer. She noted that DOE would provide technical advice in the near future.

Superintendent Bass noted that the ad hoc committee on grading composed of teachers, students and administrators, might be in a position to make recommendations soon. He noted that no matter how well the report was written, there would be questions, concerns and misunderstandings. He has planned for small virtual meetings to include the students on the ad hoc committee, to answer questions about the recommendations.

Jack Dunn said he needed to submit the budget that was passed on April 13 with signatures. He has sent out an electronic signature document with straightforward instructions to the Board; once signed, it would go to the next person in alphabetical order. He asked that each Board member move it along quickly.

Ms. Patterson noted that the permanent Superintendent search had been suspended after the two finalists withdrew; an ad hoc committee of the Board was working with Mr. Bettencourt of NESDEC to identify an interim Superintendent for the upcoming year.

Mr. Dunn noted that the District had received a \$15,000 donation from the Robert and Marianne Fleischmann family to pay off student lunch debt. Other organizations also reached out, looking for an easy way to donate to families through the food program. An acquaintance from the Concord Y has created a site which allows for community donations, either by check or Paypal. Donations will first be used pay off food service balances, then used to purchase food for families. Ms. Patterson noted that Policy 214 Acceptance of Gifts requires that the Board approve the initial \$15,000 gift from the Fleischman family, which will be done at the June meeting. The other donations would not reach the threshold requiring approval. Mr. Dunn explained that every year, seniors are notified of balances. He said that this year, parents of student seniors with money left in their account were being called to ask if they wanted to move those amounts to other students or donate their balance to other students in need. In response to a question from Ms. Patterson whether there was an accounting process in place to account for all donations, Mr. Dunn said he would describe the process at the June meeting. Ms. Cannon asked if there was a way to thank people for making donations. Mr. Dunn said each check received was being acknowledged with a handwritten thank-you from the administration. Ms. Poinier asked about some of the facts on the donation website. Mr. Dunn said there was approximately \$18,000 current student debt. Families would first be called to determine if they were able to pay off their balances; donated funds would then be applied. Mr. Dunn said he would reach out to the new *Monitor* reporter to discuss this significant donation from the Fleischman family.

Proposed schedule of meetings for June 2020

Mr. Dunn proposed a Finance Committee meeting and a special Board meeting on the budget in June.

Donna Palley said there were changes to Title IX from the US DOE and the Communications Committee should plan to meet in August, with the new safety and compliance officer Karen Fischer-Anderson.

Ms. Higgins suggested the possibility of scheduling an Instructional Committee in the early part of August to discuss school re-start plans.

Mr. Richards suggested a Capital Facilities Committee meeting in June.

Ms. Poinier and Mr. Parker discussed the possibility of scheduling a meeting of the City and Community Relations Committee in the future.

Ms. Cannon commented that earlier in the fall there was a conversation about the District assembling a special education advisory committee with parents. Ms. Patterson referenced the Nate Levenson work, and pending legislation on this topic that would not pass this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. She suggested the advisory committee might have been advisable six months ago but could now wait pending possible approval of a contract with Nate Levenson's company. She suggested Ms. Cannon bring the topic up again in August.

The Board voted 6-0 to adjourn (motioned by Mr. Parker, seconded by Ms. Higgins).

The meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Higgins, *Secretary*

Linden Jackett, *Recorder*