

Concord School District
Special Board Meeting
June 29, 2020

Board President Jennifer Patterson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and read the following 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 for the July 2020 monthly Board meeting and the calendar of meetings in July and August. The Board will not be taking public comment at this meeting.

We encourage the submission of comments via e-mail at: concordinfo@sau8.org. 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 meeting. All Board members have the ability to communicate contemporaneously through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone # (925) 391-1169, Conf ID: 397 076 342# by clicking on the link provided on the sau8.org website. The meeting will be broadcast contemporaneously on ConcordTV's education channel, and a recording of the meeting will be posted on the ConcordTV website.

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, 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.

All members will be participating remotely. No votes are anticipated, but any taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote. When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

Board members present: Gina Cannon, Tom Croteau, Barb Higgins, Liza Poinier, Jim Richards, Jennifer Patterson

Board members absent: Chuck Crush, David Parker, Danielle Smith

Administrators present:

Interim Superintendent Kathleen Murphy, Business Administrator Jack Dunn, Assistant Superintendent Donna Palley, Director of Human Resources Larry Prince, Director of Facilities Matt Cashman

Jennifer Patterson briefly described the agenda, which was to review the draft agenda for the July 6 Board meeting and the calendar of meetings for July and August.

Jack Dunn described the agenda for the audience. Larry Prince noted that Frank Bass had asked to teach an independent study from July to November, 2020 for a stipend of \$3,000. Ms. Patterson noted that this was a continuation of the literature class he had been facilitating remotely.

Ms. Prince asked to add a CAA confirmation to the personnel section of the meeting.

Mr. Dunn noted that the report from the Negotiations Committee referenced an already-taken vote on the contract with CEAA.

Kathleen Murphy said she had added a discussion of and vote on a limited contract (35 hours total) for a communications consultant, which she felt was critically important for the District at a time when significant work on policies and training related to Title IX and equity was being undertaken. In addition, the District would need to enable strong and appropriate communication about the return to school to all media outlets, agencies, the City, and DOE. She suggested that communication needed to broaden beyond the traditional lines of communication.

Ms. Patterson noted that this was timely in this rapidly changing situation, and it was important to get the District's message out. She referenced preliminary recommendations about reopening which suggested each district would make decisions for itself.

Mr. Dunn suggested an action item (vote) be added about reprioritizing funds left over from the steam-to-gas conversion project, a recommendation of the joint Finance/Capital Facilities committees meeting.

Mr. Prince noted that celebrating the District's employees was typically done in June. While he needed time to order the gifts, he felt it could be scheduled for August or September. He felt it was important to do this in person, noting that family members were always invited. The event could have upward of 50-75 people. It was suggested that a larger facility be sought. Ms. Patterson noted that the District was still operating under emergency orders until the middle of July, and caution needed to be taken with in-person meetings.

In response to a question from Tom Croteau asked for quick update on the status of Communications Director, Ms. Patterson noted that the position had not been brought forward in the budget and the Board was not considering an actual position; rather, there was a request to approve a short-term consultant contract.

The Board discussed the July calendar, noting that meetings would revert to Wednesdays instead of Thursdays. An Instructional Committee to discuss school re-opening, and a Communications & Policy Committee meeting to discuss a Title IX policy, required to be in place by mid-August, were scheduled.

In response to a request Gina Cannon structuring notice of meetings that are rescheduled, Ms. Patterson noted the practice of a newsletter from the Superintendent to full Board, which Superintendent Murphy said she would renew.

Mr. Prince suggested scheduling a Negotiations Committee meeting after the Executive Committee on July 27, which will be renamed as a Special Board meeting for scheduling (5:00 to 6:00 pm). The Negotiations Committee meeting would be scheduled starting at 6:00 pm on July 27.

Liza Poinier scheduled a City & Community Relations Committee meeting on August 12.

In response to a question from Barb Higgins whether there were facilities concerns with the school reopening, Ms. Patterson suggested addressing all these issues at the Instructional Committee.

Mr. Prince suggested there might be a need for another Negotiations Committee meeting in August.

Ms. Patterson noted that, looking a preliminary re-opening guidelines, another Communications Committee meeting in August might be required to establish policies to address questions.

Ms. Patterson noted to Board members that NHSBA was holding a conference with Primex on reopening, on July 23 and invited them to attend.

Adjournment

The Board voted 8-0 to adjourn (motioned by Mr. Richards, seconded by Mr. Croteau).

The meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Higgins, *Secretary*
Linden Jackett, *Recorder*