

## PUBLIC STATEMENT

### Regarding the Resignation of Superintendent Forsten

The Concord School Board has accepted the resignation of Superintendent Forsten. Ms. Forsten's agreement to resign resolves the issues related to her multi-year contract and the expedited resolution of these matters is in the best interests of the Concord School District and its students. The timing is such that the Board is able to begin its superintendent search at the beginning of the hiring season, when it will have the broadest pool of qualified individuals from which to select. Bringing new leadership into the District is a first step in regaining the trust and support of the community. Had Ms. Forsten exercised her statutory and contractual rights, she would have remained on administrative leave with pay and the ensuing due process hearings and appeals would have stalled the ability of the District to move forward for a year or longer. Other major projects, which have been placed on hold will now be able to move forward.

Superintendent Forsten acknowledges that the community has lost faith in the ability of the District to provide a safe and secure educational environment. She understands her stepping aside will allow the District to begin the process of regaining the community's trust. The Board recognizes that Superintendent Forsten was not Superintendent in 2014 and 2015 when Mr. Leung's misconduct began and acknowledges that she was unaware of previous concerns regarding Mr. Leung when the 2018 incident occurred.

In turn, the Board only learned of the nature and extent of Mr. Leung's misconduct after the Concord Police Department's investigation this past spring. It then authorized an independent investigation to discover how Mr. Leung's conduct could have occurred, why that misconduct was not promptly discovered, and why Mr. Leung was not immediately removed from the classroom. The District has received a comprehensive and thorough report which has enabled it to begin to address the reasons why Mr. Leung remained in the classroom after his misconduct was initially reported.

The Board is deeply committed and unified around its desire to ensure that all students are educated in a safe and secure environment and that the District earns back the trust of the community in its ability to protect every child in its care. As the policymaking body for the District, the Board is reviewing all of its safety-oriented policies, intends to amend existing policies or enact new policies, as necessary, and will provide training to students and staff to increase the likelihood that misconduct by staff is properly identified, promptly reported to administration, investigations are timely, and offenders are immediately removed from the school setting.

We are grateful to the community for its assistance in this process and its patience as we work through these difficult issues.