

Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 9, 2023

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District No. 1, Coles and Cumberland Counties, Illinois met in special session on Thursday, February 9, 2023 at the Administration Building – 410 West Polk Avenue, Charleston, Illinois 61920

At 5:32pm, President Coe called the meeting to order and asked for roll call.

The following board members were present:

Jason Coe, President
Scott Clarke, Vice President
Charles Jarrell, Treasurer
Susan Daniels, Secretary
Brian Gough
Eva Ritchey
Brandon Wright

The following staff members were present:

Todd Vilardo, Superintendent of Schools
Chad Burgett, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services
Chelsey Bennett, Recording Secretary
Robert Lynn, CMS Principal
Blain Mayhall, CMS Dean of Student
Luke Feeney, School Attorney, Hearing Officer

Visitors 0 and 0 Members of the Press

The purpose of the special meeting was to hold a disciplinary hearing on student #85256 and student #85971. The students and parents were in attendance.

Under Public, Staff Comments, Written Communication, President Coe asked if there were any requests or written communications to the Board of Education. No requests were received.

At 5:34pm, President Coe recommended that the Board of Education adjourn into closed session to hear testimony regarding a student disciplinary case pursuant to the Open Meetings Act – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9), and to determine disciplinary action to student #85256. Mr. Gough moved and Mr. Jarrell seconded the motion.

On roll call vote:

AYE: Gough, Jarrell, Clarke, Ritchey, Wright, Coe, Daniels
NAY: none Abstain: none
Motion carried

At 5:41pm, Mr. Gough made a motion to reconvene from closed session. Mr. Jarrell seconded the motion.

On roll call vote:

AYE: Gough, Jarrell, Clarke, Ritchey, Wright, Coe, Daniels
NAY: none Abstain: none
Motion carried

Back in open session, President Coe moved that student #85256 be found to have violated Illinois law and school district rules and regulations by possessing marijuana on school property during school hours under circumstances so related to the school program so as to warrant discipline.

At 5:43pm, Dr. Clarke moved to return to closed session to determine disciplinary action to student #80834. Mr. Gough seconded the motion.

On roll call vote:

AYE: Clarke, Gough, Jarrell, Ritchey, Wright, Coe, Daniels

NAY: none ABSTAIN: none

Motion carried

At 6:42pm, Dr. Clarke made a motion to reconvene from closed session. Mr. Gough seconded the motion.

On roll call vote:

AYE: Clarke, Gough, Jarrell, Ritchey, Wright, Coe, Daniels

NAY: none ABSTAIN: none

Motion carried

Back in open session, President Coe moved that student #85256 be expelled from Charleston Community Unit School District No. 1 for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year, effective immediately.

But, that the said expulsion be held in abeyance for the following reasons:

- 1) to allow student #85256 to attend the ROE Bridges Safe Schools Alternative Education Program for the duration of the expulsion.
- 2) To allow student #85256 to return to school beginning February 15, 2023 provided that student #85256
 - a. receives one hour of drug counseling services per week, at the student's expense, for the length of the expulsion from a counselor approved by the Middle School Principal;
 - b. consents to searches at the discretion of the Middle School Principal; and
 - c. that compliance with these conditions shall be determined at the discretion of the Middle School Principal, and that if student #85256 fails to comply, the expulsion shall remain in effect for its duration.

Mr. Gough seconded the motion.

On roll call vote:

AYE: Coe, Gough, Clarke, Jarrell, Ritchey, Wright, Daniels

NAY: none ABSTAIN: none

Motion carried

President Coe stated that this would conclude the disciplinary case for student #85256.

At 6:52pm, President Coe recommended that the Board of Education adjourn into closed session to hear testimony regarding a student disciplinary case pursuant to the Open Meetings Act – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9), and to determine disciplinary action to student #85971. Mr. Jarrell moved and Mr. Gough seconded the motion.

On roll call vote:

AYE: Jarrell, Gough, Clarke, Ritchey, Wright, Coe, Daniels

NAY: none Abstain: none

Motion carried

At 6:57pm, Dr. Clarke made a motion to reconvene from closed session. Mr. Jarrell seconded the motion.

On roll call vote:

AYE: Clarke, Jarrell, Gough, Ritchey, Wright, Coe, Daniels

NAY: none Abstain: none

Motion carried

Back in open session, President Coe moved that student #85971 be found to have violated Illinois law and school district rules and regulations by possessing marijuana on school property during school hours under circumstances so related to the school program so as to warrant discipline.

At 6:59pm, Mr. Jarrell moved to return to closed session to determine disciplinary action to student #85971. Mr. Gough seconded the motion.

On roll call vote:

AYE: Jarrell, Gough, Clarke, Ritchey, Wright, Coe, Daniels

NAY: none ABSTAIN: none

Motion carried

At 7:28pm, Dr. Clarke made a motion to reconvene from closed session. Mr. Gough seconded the motion.

On roll call vote:

AYE: Clarke, Gough, Jarrell, Ritchey, Wright, Coe, Daniels

NAY: none ABSTAIN: none

Motion carried

Back in open session, President Coe moved that student #85971 be expelled from Charleston Community Unit School District No. 1 for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year, effective immediately, but that the said expulsion be held in abeyance for the purpose to allow student #85971 to attend the ROE Bridges Safe Schools Alternative Education Program for the duration of the expulsion.

Dr. Clarke seconded the motion.

On roll call vote:

AYE: Coe, Clarke, Jarrell, Gough, Ritchey, Wright, Daniels

NAY: none ABSTAIN: none

Motion carried

President Coe stated that this would conclude the disciplinary case for student #85971

At 7:31pm, Mr. Gough moved and Mr. Jarrell seconded the motion to adjourn from the special board meeting.

On roll call vote:

AYE: Gough, Jarrell, Clarke, Ritchey, Wright, Coe, Daniels

NAY: none Abstain: none

Motion carried

Jason Coe
President, Board of Education

Susan Daniels
Secretary, Board of Education