

Board of Education
Special Board Meeting Minutes
Expulsion Hearing
Friday, December 17, 2021 at 2:45 pm
Board of Education
61 Echo Lake Road
Watertown, CT

Present: Mr. Robert Makowski, Vice Chairman
Ms. Christine Faressa, Board Member
Mr. Jason Malagutti, Board Member.

Others Present: Alison Villanueva, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Marylu Lerz, Principal, Swift Middle School
Ms. Mary Jean Mangione, Assistant Principal, Swift Middle School
Attorney Richard Mills, Shipman & Goodwin
Mr. Chris Donston, School Resource Officer, Swift School
Attorney Robert Scott, Slavin, Stauffacher & Scott, LLC
Mother of student 2021-2022-06
Father of student 2021-2022-06
Student-2021-2022-06

Mr. Robert Makowski call the meeting to order at 2.50 pm.

Motion made by Ms. Faressa and Seconded by Mr. Malagutti:

Text of Motion: To enter into an executive session at 2:50 pm to conduct a student's expulsion hearing, matters concerning the personal privacy of the student involved are likely to be discussed.

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Opening statement for the expulsion hearing read by Attorney Robert Scott.

Opening statements and call for witnesses: Attorney Richard Mills.

Meeting went into Executive Session with everyone listed above as being present at 2:50 pm.

Meeting came out of Executive Session at 4:35 pm.

Recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools:

THE STUDENT shall be expelled, effective December 17, 2021, and continuing through December 8, 2022 (the "Expulsion Period"), under the following conditions:

The BOARD will provide THE STUDENT with an alternative educational opportunity deemed appropriate through the PPT process.

Prior to the beginning of the 2022-23 school year, the Superintendent will review THE STUDENT's conduct, attendance and effort level in the alternative educational opportunity, for the purpose of determining, in the

Superintendent's sole discretion, whether THE STUDENT should be readmitted to school on or about the first day of the 2022-23 school year. In order to be eligible for consideration for such early readmission, THE STUDENT must satisfy all of the following conditions:

THE STUDENT must make a good faith effort to succeed in the alternative educational opportunity during the period of expulsion, by attending and participating in the program regularly, completing assigned homework and other assignments in a timely manner and otherwise demonstrating a good faith effort to succeed in the program;

THE STUDENT must not engage in any conduct that would warrant suspension and/or expulsion under the policies of the Board as determined by the Superintendent;

If the Superintendent determines that THE STUDENT should be readmitted to school early in accordance with the preceding section, and if THE STUDENT subsequently commits any offense that would warrant suspension and/or expulsion under the policies of the Board, the Superintendent may reinstate THE STUDENT expulsion for the remainder of the expulsion period, through December 8, 2022, without the need for any further proceedings before the Board.

During the expulsion period, except as authorized in writing in advance by the Superintendent of Schools, THE STUDENT will not be permitted to be on school grounds and will not be permitted to attend or participate in any school-sponsored activities, with the sole exception of his participation in the alternative educational opportunity to the extent such alternative educational opportunity is provided on school grounds.

Motion made by Mr. Malagutti and seconded by Ms. Faressa: I make a motion to accept the recommendations from the Superintendent of Schools and the Administration as amended by the Watertown Board of Education.

Opposed: None

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion made by Ms. Faressa and seconded by Mr. Malagutti to adjourn the meeting at 4:35 pm.

Opposed: None

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting adjourned at 4:35pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Else Taylor

Executive Assistant