REED CITY AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of Special Meeting
Student Discipline Hearing
Thursday, November 4, 2021
5:30 p.m.
Porteous Academic Center
http://j.mp/RCAPS_Meet

The RCAPS Board of Education Special Meeting for the purpose of a Student Discipline Hearing was held both electronically and in-person. The Special Meeting was called to order by President Eichenberg at 5:32p.m. on Thursday, November 4, 2021.

Roll Call

Present: Members Eichenberg, Franklin, C. Mund, S. Mund, Quinn, and Vanderhoof
Superintendent Sweet, Assistant High School Principal Shoemaker,
Recording Secretary Battle, and Jennifer Starlin Attorney with Thrun Law

Absent: Member Bookwalter

Motion by Member Quinn with support by Member S. Mund to approve the agenda as presented.
Motion carried unanimously.

Communication from the Public
There was no public comment.

Motion by Member S. Mund with support from Member Quinn to approve that the Board of Education for Reed City Area Public Schools appoint Jennifer Starlin of Thrun Law to serve as the Board's Hearing Officer for the Student Discipline Hearing.
Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

Motion by Member C. Mund with support from Member Franklin to enter into Closed Session pursuant to Section 8(b) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act and upon the request of Student's Mother, to enter into Closed Session for the purpose of conducting a hearing to consider the disciplining of a student whose identity is known to the Board.

Motion carried unanimously.

Roll call vote was taken with the following results:

Ayes: Members Eichenberg, Franklin, C. Mund, S. Mund, Quinn, and Vanderhoof

Nays: None

Absent: Member Bookwalter

The Board entered into closed session, with the inclusion of Hearing Officer Jennifer Starlin, Superintendent Sweet, High School Assistant Principal Shoemaker, Recording Secretary Battle, Student's Mother, Grandmother, Aunt, and Student at 5:34p.m.

Open Session

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:47p.m.

Preamble and Resolution

The preamble and resolution were offered by Member S. Mund and supported by Member Vanderhoof. A preponderance of the evidence establishes that on October 27, 2021, the Student possessed a dangerous weapon, a switchblade knife with a blade of 3 ¾ inches, in a weapon-free school zone. Based on careful consideration of all of the following factors, the Board determines that expulsion is warranted: The Student's age; The Student's disciplinary history; Whether the Student has a disability; The seriousness of the behavior; Whether the behavior posed a safety risk; Whether restorative practices are a better option; and Whether lesser interventions would address the behavior. Because the Board believes that lesser interventions would address the behavior in this case, the Student is not permanently expelled from the District. However, the Student is expelled until the beginning of the third trimester of the 2021-2022 school year. During the time of the expulsion, the Student may not be on school grounds or attend any functions at the District without prior written approval from an appropriate administrator. In addition to expulsion, the Student must complete the following restorative practices: Before returning to school, the Student must meet with a school counselor or behavioral specialist (as decided by the Superintendent) at least 6 times. The Student must cooperate with scheduling these sessions and, if the sessions are not scheduled, the Student is responsible for contacting the school to arrange sessions. Upon the Student's return to school, the Student's caretakers will ensure the Student is weapon-free before leaving the house each morning. The Student's failure to complete these restorative practices may result in further disciplinary consequences. Upon his return to school, the Student will be subject to the following additional consequences: The Student must stop in the office each morning before attending class or going to his locker to check in with an office staff member to ensure the Student not in possession of any tools or weapons. This requirement will continue through the end of the school year. Failure to comply with this requirement each day may result in additional discipline. Consistent with Revised School Code Sections 11a and 1311(1), the Board finds that the interests of the District are served by this resolution. Administrators are directed and authorized to implement all terms of this resolution and are delegated all necessary authority to do so. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with provisions of this resolution are hereby rescinded.

Roll call vote was taken with the following results:

AYES: Members: Eichenberg, Franklin, C. Mund, S. Mund, Quinn, and Vanderhoof

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Member Bookwalter

Resolution passed 6 Ayes to 0 Nays with 1 Member absent.

Adjournment

Motion by Member Quinn with support by Member C. Mund to adjourn the Special Meeting.
Motion carried unanimously.

The Special Meeting was adjourned at 7:51p.m.