

Regional School District 13 Board of Education Minutes of the Special Meeting of January 8, 2015

A special subcommittee of the Regional District 13 Board of Education met in special session on Thursday, January 8, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. in the Board Room at the Regional School District 13 Central Office, 135 Pickett Lane, Durham, Connecticut.

Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Hicks (Chair), Mr. Renninghoff

Administrators present: Pupil Personnel Director Amy Emory, Coginchaug Regional High School Principal Brian Falcone, Superintendent of Schools Kathryn Veronesi.

Others present: Alyce Alfano, Esq. Attorney for the Administration, Stephen Sedor, Esq. Attorney for the Board of Education, the RSD 13 Student who is the subject of this hearing and accompanying parents of that student

Call to Order

Committee Chairman Norman Hicks called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m. after it was determined that a quorum was present (minimum of three Board members).

Move to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss confidential student matters, as permitted by Conn. Gen. Statute § 1-200(6) and 1-210(b)(17) (student expulsion hearing).

Mr. Renninghoff moved the Board of Education enter into executive to discuss a confidential student matter relating to a student in Regional School District 13 and to further review confidential student records pursuant to Conn. Gen. Statute § 1-200(6) and 1-210(b)(17) (student expulsion hearing). Mrs. Adams seconded the motion.

In favor of the motion: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Renninghoff

Opposed to the motion: None

Abstained from voting: None

Motion passed.

Mr. Hicks invited Attorney Stephen Sedor, Attorney Alyce Alfano, Pupil Personnel Director Amy Emory, Coginchaug Regional High School Principal Brian Falcone, Superintendent of Schools Kathryn Veronesi, a Regional School District 13 student who is the subject of this hearing and accompanying parents to participate in executive session.

The Board of Education returned to regular session at 4:22 p.m.

Possible action regarding student expulsion

Mr. Hicks moved that the Board of Education find that the student who is the subject of this procedure did, on or about December 10, 2014 engage in an expellable offense by possessing and consuming marijuana brownies during a school activity and by aiding in the procurement and distribution of marijuana brownies. Such conduct violated publicized policies of the Board, was seriously disruptive of the educational process and endangered persons. Mrs. Adams seconded the motion.

In favor of the motion: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Renninghoff

Opposed to the motion: None

Abstained from voting: None

Motion passed.

Move to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss confidential student matters, as permitted by Conn. Gen. Statute § 1-200(6) and 1-210(b)(17) (student expulsion hearing).

Mr. Renninghoff moved the Board of Education enter into executive session to discuss a confidential student matter relating to a student in Regional School District 13 and to further review confidential student records pursuant to Conn. Gen. Statute § 1-200(6) and 1-210(b)(17) (student expulsion hearing). Mrs. Adams seconded the motion.

Mr. Hicks made a statement to the student who is the subject of this hearing.

The Board of Education returned to regular session at 6:06 p.m.

Mr. Renninghoff, Mrs. Adams

Mr. Renninghoff moved that as a result of the student's conduct, the student shall be expelled from Regional School District 13, including all school activities, curricular or otherwise, until the last day of the 2014-15 school year. During this period the student shall receive an alternative educational program to be provided by the school administration.

It is further moved that the student shall be eligible to re-enter school at the discretion of the Superintendent, on April 6, 2015, if the student meets the following conditions:

1. The student actively participates in the alternative education;
2. The student refrains from any further expellable offenses;

3. Within two weeks of April 6, 2015, the student must take and pass a drug test at the Board's expense, and provide the results to the Superintendent prior to re-entry; and
4. The student serves 10 hours per week of community service to be approved by the Superintendent.

If the student is readmitted early, the student shall continue to refrain from any further suspendable or expellable offenses. If the Superintendent in her discretion finds that the student has committed such an offense, the student shall serve the balance of the expulsion without a further hearing of the Board. If and only if the student meets all of the conditions stated above, the record of this expulsion shall be expunged on the last day of the 2014-15 school year. Mrs. Adams seconded the motion.

In favor of the motion: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Renninghoff, Mr. Hicks

Opposed to the motion: None

Abstained from voting: None

Motion passed.

Mr. Hicks thanked the Board for their time and careful consideration in this matter.

Adjournment

Mrs. Adams moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 p.m. Mr. Renninghoff seconded the motion.

In favor of the motion: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Renninghoff

Opposed to the motion: None

Abstained from voting: None

Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Norm Hicks

Norman Hicks, Special Committee Chairman