



Colchester Board of Education Special Meeting

Minutes

Date: October 28, 2015

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Pupil Services Conference Room

Board Members Present: Chairman Ronald Goldstein, Vice Chairman Donald Kennedy, Mary Tomasi, Brad Bernier

Administration Present: Superintendent Jeffry Mathieu, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education Dr. Kelly McNamara, BA Assistant Principal Dr. Charles Hewes, School Resource Office Suchecki

Others Present: Alyce Alfano, Impartial Hearing Officer representing the Colchester Board of Education in this matter, Mother of Student A, and Student A

1. Call to Order

Chairman Goldstein called the Expulsion Hearing to order at 7:04 PM.

2. Executive Session – Expulsion Hearing on Student A

Motion by: D. Kennedy

To enter into Executive Session for the purpose of conducting an Expulsion Hearing and invite the following individuals into the Executive Session:

Superintendent Mathieu, Dr. McNamara, Dr. Hewes, Attorney Littlefield, Mother of Student A, and Student A.

Seconded by: M. Tomasi

Vote: Unanimous

Executive Session was entered at 7:05 PM for the purpose of conducting the Expulsion Hearing.

Public Session was entered at 7:37 PM

Motion #1 Regarding Outcome of Expulsion Hearing on Student A:

Motion by: D. Kennedy

The Board of Education finds that the student who is the subject of this hearing did, on October 16, 2015, violate publicized policies of the Board, policy 5131.6 (Drugs and Alcohol/Tobacco) and 5144 (Student Discipline), by possessing and intending to distribute 36 prescription Adderall pills on school grounds.

Seconded by: M. Tomasi

Vote: Unanimous

3. Executive Session – Expulsion Hearing on Student A

Motion by: D. Kennedy

To enter into Executive Session for the purpose of conducting an Expulsion Hearing and invite the following individuals into the Executive Session: Superintendent Mathieu, Dr. McNamara, Dr. Hewes, Attorney Littlefield, Mother of Student A, and Student A.

Seconded by: M. Tomasi

Vote: Unanimous

Executive Session was entered at 7:39 PM for the purpose of conducting the Expulsion Hearing.

Public Session was entered at 8:44 PM.

4. Motion #2 Regarding Outcome of Expulsion Hearing on Student A:

Motion by: B Bernier

On the basis of the conduct noted above, the Board of Education expels the Student who is the subject of this hearing from all school property and all school-sponsored activities of the Colchester Public Schools, for a period of one hundred eighty school days, commencing October 16, 2015, subject to the following conditions:

The Student shall be eligible to apply to the Superintendent of Schools for early readmission on a probationary basis, on or about January 25, 2016 (the 1st day of the third marking period), if the Student satisfies the following conditions to the satisfaction of the Superintendent:

- a) The Student shall not violate any state or federal law or any provision of the Board's student discipline policy;
- b) The Student successfully participates in the alternative educational opportunity provided by the Board during the period of expulsion, as evidenced by his satisfactory attendance, work completion, and respect for the tutor;
- c) The Student completes ten (10) hours of community service at an organization to be pre-approved by the Superintendent prior to the January 25, 2016 readmission date;
- d) The Student must participate in counseling with the Board social worker once per week throughout the period of expulsion;
- e) The student must participate in a counseling program, at no expense to the Board, and provide evidence of such participation to the satisfaction of the Superintendent;
- f) The Student must demonstrate readiness to return to Bacon Academy as determined by the Superintendent, following an interview Administration, the Student's parents, and the student.

In the event that the Superintendent readmits the Student to school, the Student shall be considered to be on probation. If the Student commits any offense which warrants suspension or expulsion under Board policies, the Superintendent may re-impose the period of expulsion from school, through October 16, 2016, without the need to reconvene a Board level hearing. The Board also reserves the right to impose additional disciplinary consequences for any future disciplinary violations which may occur during the Student's probation depending on the severity and nature of the future misconduct.

Should the Student refrain from any offense which warrants suspension or expulsion from school and the Student achieve satisfactory attendance at school (as evidenced by not accumulating more than four (4) unexcused absences in a month or ten (10) unexcused absences in a year), the Student may apply to have his disciplinary record with respect to this offense expunged as of the first day of the 2016-17 school year.

During any period of exclusion from school imposed by this expulsion hearing decision, the Student is not permitted on school property or at any school-sponsored activities, without the express permission of the administration.

During any period of exclusion from school imposed by this expulsion hearing decision, the administration shall provide the Student with an alternative educational opportunity as required by law.

Seconded by: M. Tomasi

Vote: Unanimous

5. Adjournment

Motion by: D. Kennedy

To adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by: M. Tomasi

Vote: Unanimous

Chairman Goldstein adjourned the meeting at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey P. Mathieu
Superintendent of Schools