

**Special Meeting
Stafford Board of Education
Stafford Elementary School Library
November 16, 2015, 6:00 p.m.**

Board Members Present: Mr. Peter Kovaleski
Mrs. Andrea Locke
Mrs. Tracy Rummel, Chairperson

Absent: Ms. Sonya Shegogue
Mrs. Kathy Walsh

Also Present: Dr. Patricia A. Collin, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Marco Pelliccia, Principal, Stafford High School
Atty. Peter Janus, Counsel for the Board of Education
Mother of Student B
Step-father of Student B
Student B

Item I. Call to Order- Establishment of Quorum

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. A quorum was established.

Item II. Executive Session

- a. **Board Inquiry into the Continued Enrollment and Attendance of Student B**
- b. **Board Consideration of the Superintendent's Recommendation or Motion Regarding the Expulsion of Student B from Stafford High School Pursuant to CGS 10-233d**

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kovaleski, that the Board enter executive session to discuss material that would result in the disclosure of public records or the information contained therein as described in Connecticut General Statutes Sections 1-200(6)(E), subsection (b) of Section 1-210, specifically, personnel, student or medical and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute an invasion of privacy, and / or names and addresses of students enrolled in public school. Only those invited by the Board may be present in the executive session. Mrs. Locke, Mr. Kovaleski and Mrs. Rummel, voted for the motion, which carried. The Board entered executive session at 6:06 p.m.

The Board invited the following individuals into the executive session:

Dr. Patricia A. Collin, Superintendent of Schools
Attorney Peter A. Janus, Counsel for the Board of Education
Mr. Marco Pelliccia, Principal, Stafford High School
Mother of Student B
Step-father of Student B
Student B
Mrs. Christine Marinelli, Recording Secretary

The Board took a recess at 6:28 p.m.

All invited individuals returned to the boardroom at 6:35 p.m.

Mr. Kovaleski made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Locke, to return to regular session. Mrs. Locke, Mr. Kovaleski and Mrs. Rummel, voted for the motion, which carried. The Board returned to regular session at 6:36 p.m.

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kovaleski, that based on the evidence and testimony received after a due process hearing, it is the finding of the Stafford Board of Education that culminating on or about October 31, 2015, Student B committed an expellable offense, namely that Student B vandalized and destroyed property owned by the school by intentionally setting fire to such property on two occasions; Student B was under the influence of alcohol on school grounds; Student B violated the Board of Education's policy 5114 (a) – (p), Board Policy 5131.5 and the disciplinary guidelines as outlined in the Stafford High School 2015 – 2016 Student-Parent Handbook; and it being the further finding of the Stafford Board of Education that such action constitutes conduct which is detrimental and an endangerment to the health, safety and welfare of other students, that such conduct is seriously disruptive of the educational process and that such conduct also violates a publicized policy of the Stafford Board of Education. Mrs. Locke, Mr. Kovaleski and Mrs. Rummel, voted for the motion, which carried.

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kovaleski, to enter executive session. Mrs. Locke, Mr. Kovaleski and Mrs. Rummel, voted for the motion, which carried. The Board entered executive session at 6:38 p.m.

The Board took a recess at 6:47 p.m.

All invited individuals returned to the boardroom at 7:02 p.m.

Mr. Kovaleski made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Locke, to return to regular session. Mrs. Locke, Mr. Kovaleski and Mrs. Rummel, voted for the motion, which carried. The Board returned to regular session at 7:04 p.m.

Mrs. Locke made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kovaleski, that based on the previous decision of the Stafford Board of Education that Student B committed an expellable offense, and based upon the evidence and testimony received as to the length of any expulsion to be imposed for the offense by Student B, it is the finding of the Stafford Board of Education that Student B shall be expelled from the Stafford Public Schools from any and all school privileges and premises, and all school-sponsored activities for disciplinary reasons effective immediately for a period of one calendar year.

However, Student B may apply for early readmission to school at the beginning of the first semester of the 2016 – 2017 school year by submitting an application to the Superintendent of Schools for consideration by the Board of Education no later than at its scheduled meeting in July 2016. The Board will condition Student B's readmission on satisfactory performance in tutoring with no unexcused absences; maintaining a satisfactory academic record; attending counseling sessions as scheduled by the school social worker; and completion of 100 hours of community service. If Student B is granted early readmission and subsequently commits a violation of the Board of Education's policies and regulations warranting expulsion, then the original period of this expulsion shall be reinstated without further hearings.

Moved further that the Administration provide Student B with an alternative educational opportunity during the expulsion period.

Mrs. Locke, Mr. Kovaleski and Mrs. Rummel, voted for the motion, which carried.

Item III. Adjournment

Mr. Kovaleski made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Locke, to adjourn. Mrs. Locke, Mr. Kovaleski and Mrs. Rummel, voted for the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Marinelli, Recording Secretary

Tracy L. Rummel, Chairperson

Sonya Shegogue, Secretary

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