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Regional School District 13 Board of Education
Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 19, 2015

A special subcommittee of the Regional District 13 Board of Education met in special session on Thursday, February 19, 2015, at 10:00 a.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., Steve Sedor, Esq., John Flanders, Esq., the RSD 13 Student who is the subject of this hearing and accompanying family of that student

Call to Order
Committee Chairman Norman Hicks called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.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 session to discuss a confidential student matter relating to a student in Regional School District 13 and to further receive and review confidential student records pursuant to Conn. Gen. Statute §1-210(b)(17). 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, Coginchaug Regional High School Principal Brian Falcone, Attorney John Flanders, Superintendent of Schools Kathryn Veronesi, a Regional School District 13 student who is the subject of this hearing and accompanying family to participate in executive session.

The Board of Education returned to regular session at 10:55 a.m.

Possible action regarding student expulsion

Mr. Renninghoff moved that the Board of Education find that the student who is the subject of this proceeding did on or about December 10, 2014 participate in the procurement, possession and distribution of a controlled substance on and off school grounds and that such conduct constitutes an expellable offense.

The Board of Education further accepts the party's stipulated agreement and further moves that the student shall be expelled until the last day of the 2014-2015 school year. During that time, the student shall not be able to attend school or any school activities, curricular or otherwise. During the expulsion period, the student shall receive an alternative education to be provided by the administration and as otherwise required by the student's IEP. The student may be admitted to school early on May 1, 2015 if the student meets the following conditions:

1. The student actively participates in the alternative education and attends weekly counseling provided by the administration;
2. The student shall refrain from any further suspendable or expellable offenses;
3. The student shall serve ten (10) hours per week of community service to be approved by the Superintendent of Schools and shall regularly meet with the student's assigned mentor;
4. Within two (2) weeks of May 1, 2015 the student shall take and pass a drug test (at the Board's expense) and provide the results to the Superintendent of Schools;
5. The Superintendent of Schools shall have the discretion to determine if the student has satisfied these conditions.

If the student is readmitted early, the student shall continue to refrain from any further suspendable or expellable offenses. If the Superintendent of Schools finds that the student engages in such an offense, she shall have the discretion to require the student to serve the balance of the expulsion without a further hearing of the Board of Education.

If and only if the student satisfies all of the above noted conditions, the record of the student's expulsion shall be expunged on the last day of the 2014-2015 school year. 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.

Mrs. Adams spoke to the student briefly regarding the student's positive attitude and remorse for what had transpired.

Mr. Hicks spoke to the student briefly commending the student's ability to be honest and contrite and wished the student well as the slate should be clean as the student enters senior year.

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

4. Adjournment

Mrs. Adams moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:11 a.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,

Norman Hicks

Norman Hicks, Special Committee Chairman