

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 16
Special Board of Education Meeting
January 3, 2018

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

| | | <u>Weighted vote</u> |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Beacon Falls...</i> | Christine Arnold | .7 |
| <i>Prospect...</i> | Robert Hiscox | 1.3 |
| | Nazih Noujaim | 1.3 |

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Michael P. Yamin, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Kurt Ogren, Principal Woodland High School
Mr. Brian Fell, Assistant Principal/AD WRHS
Mr. Christopher Decker, Dean of Students

OTHERS PRESENT: Attorney Jessica Ritter, Shipman & Goodwin– Region 16
Board Attorney/Procedural Advisor
Attorney Stephen M. Sedor, Pullman and Comley LLC
Representing Region 16 School Administration
Student, student’s parents and student’s sibling,
and the student’s witnesses

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Robert Hiscox at 6:00 p.m. at the Region 16 District Office, 30 Coer Road, Prospect, CT.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

The purpose of the meeting is to conduct a hearing on a student discipline issue. It is the intention of the Board to conduct the hearing in executive session. Once in executive session, the Board’s Attorney, Ms. Jessica Ritter, acting as procedural advisor, will explain the procedures for this hearing.

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Nazih Noujaim to enter into executive session at 6:05 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a student expulsion hearing, during which matters of personal privacy of one or more students enrolled in the Region 16 school system are likely to be discussed, by name, and during which educational records, not subject to disclosure under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, are likely to be discussed. Executive Session to include Attorney Jessica Ritter, Attorney Stephen Sedor, Superintendent Michael Yamin, Mr. Kurt Ogren, Mr. Brian Fell, Mr. Christopher Decker, the student who is the subject of the hearing, the student’s parents, the student’s sibling, and the student’s witnesses.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote 3.3)

18-001

At 6:30 p.m., all parties except the Board members and Attorney Jessica Ritter left the executive session while the Board members deliberated.

The Board came out of executive session at 6:41 p.m.

Robert Hiscox MOVED and SECONDED by Christine Arnold that the Region 16 Board of Education Student Expulsion Committee finds, based on the evidence in the record, that the student who is the subject of this hearing did, on or about December 8, 2017, possess a controlled substance on school grounds with intent to use or designed to be used for consumption or distribution. The student was also in possession of drug paraphernalia. Said conduct violated a publicized policy of the Board, endangered persons and was seriously disruptive of the educational process. As a result of the above findings, the Board of Education concludes that the student who is the subject of this hearing did commit an expellable offense.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote 3.3)

18-002

Mr. Hiscox MOVED and Christine Arnold SECONDED to re-enter Executive Session at 6:45 p.m. with all the parties named above to discuss a confidential student matter.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote 3.3)

18-003

At 7:15 p.m., all parties except the Board members and Attorney Jessica Ritter left the executive session while the Board members deliberated.

The Board came out of executive session at 7:45 p.m.

Nazih Noujaim MOVED and it was SECONDED by Christine Arnold that the student who is the subject of this hearing did commit an expellable offense and shall be expelled from the Region 16 Public Schools for one calendar year from the date of the incident, December 8, 2017. During the period of expulsion the student shall not be allowed to enter any school property and/or participate in any school sponsored events and activities with the exception of his alternative education program as determined by the Administration, if applicable.

The student may be allowed early readmission to school on the first day of 2018-19 academic year if the student completes the following conditions to the satisfaction of the Superintendent of Schools:

1. the student regularly cooperates and receives passing grades in his alternative education program;
2. the student submits to monthly drug tests and provides passing results to the Superintendent;
3. the Board encourages the student to seek outside counseling and encourages the parents to release the counseling records to the school;
4. the student avoids any serious disciplinary incident that would result in a suspension or expulsion in accordance with District policy; and
5. the student avoids any action resulting in an arrest.

If readmitted early, the student will be on probation for the remainder of the original expulsion period. During the probationary period, the student must:

1. receive passing grades in his courses;
2. submit to and pass monthly drug tests;
3. participate in counseling with a school counselor;
4. refrain from committing an offense which would constitute an expellable or suspendable offense in accordance with district policy; and
5. avoid any action resulting in an arrest.

If the student violates any of the aforementioned conditions during the probationary period, the Superintendent shall have the discretion to reinstate the remaining term of the expulsion without further authorization by the Board. If the expulsion is reinstated, the student will be entitled to an alternative educational program as determined by the Administration. The student will not be permitted to enter school property and/or participate in school sponsored activities, with the exception of his alternative educational program, if applicable.

The student may petition the Board for an expungement of this expulsion in accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. 10-233d.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote 3.3)

18-004

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Christine Arnold to adjourn the January 3, 2018, Special Board of Education Meeting at 7:50 p.m.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote 3.3)

18-005

Sincerely,

Christine Arnold, Secretary

These minutes are subject to Board approval.

Respectfully submitted by School Board Attorney Jessica Ritter, acting Board clerk.