

STUDENT HEARING

GADSDEN COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
MAX. D. WALKER ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
35 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BOULEVARD
QUINCY, FLORIDA

January 29, 2024

7:30 P.M.

A hearing for student case #76-2324-9106 convened at 7:27 p.m.

The following Board members were present: Mrs. Karema D. Dudley, Chairwoman; Mr. Leroy McMillan; Ms. Cathy S. Johnson; and Mr. Steve Scott. Also present were Mr. Elijah Key, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board; Mrs. Deborah Minnis, Attorney for the Board; and others. Mr. Charlie D. Frost was absent.

The proceedings were electronically recorded.

Mrs. Dudley made the following announcement: "This is not a court of law. This is a School Board Hearing. All rules that normally apply to a court trial do not necessarily apply here. This hearing is closed to the public unless the parent waives her right." She stated that the mother of student #76-2324-9106 has expressed the desire for due process as provided for under Florida Statutes 120.57 and 1001.42. She stated that pursuant to the mother's request for a hearing, she has the right to representation by counsel and the opportunity to present evidence and testimony as to why the School Board should not act favorably on the recommendation of expulsion of student #76-2324-9106. She stated that by law, expulsion hearings are exempt from the public meetings act; however, the parent has the right to waive the exemption and have an open hearing pursuant to Section 286.001, F.S.

Mrs. Dudley stated for the record that the mother of student #76-2324-9106 did not waive her right and the hearing was closed to the public.

Mrs. Dudley stated that the hearing for student #76-2324-9106 was for battery on a student and excessive discipline records.

The following witnesses were present for the hearing. 1) Mrs. Catina Simmons-Russ, Site Administrator of Carter Parramore Academy; 2) mother of student #76-2324-9106; 3) student #76-2324-9106; 4) Church Youth Department President of student #76-2324-9106; and 5) church member of student #76-2324-9106.

The following witnesses gave sworn testimony: 1) Mrs. Catina Simmons-Russ, Site Administrator of Carter Parramore Academy; 2) mother of student #76-2324-9106; 3) student #76-2324-9106; 4) Church Youth Department President of student #76-2324-9106; and 5) church member of student #76-2324-9106.

Mrs. Dudley recessed the hearing at 7:50 p.m. for deliberation and reconvened at 8:00 p.m.

During deliberation, Mr. Key made a recommendation to expel student #76-2324-9106 from all schools, with home school services for the remainder of the 2023 – 2024 school year and up to the 1st semester of the 2024 – 2025 school year. Student will be re-evaluated provided documentation for diagnosis is provided. Student should not be on any other campus, day or night, during this expulsion period except to transact official business. Student should not be on any school bus.

Mrs. Karema D. Dudley made a motion to expel student #76-2324-9106 from all schools, with home school services for the remainder of the 2023 – 2024 school year and up to the 1st semester of the 2024 – 2025 school year. Student will be re-evaluated provided documentation for diagnosis is provided. Student should not be on any other campus, day or night, during this expulsion period except to transact official business. Student should not be on any school bus. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

Attorney Minnis informed the mother of her right to file an appeal with the 1st District Court of Appeal if she objected to the Board's ruling.

The hearing adjourned at 8:07 p.m.