

STUDENT HEARING

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

March 4, 2025

6:00 P.M.

A hearing for student case #070-2425-0211 convened at 6:03 p.m.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Leroy McMillan, Chairman, Ms. Cathy S. Johnson, Ms. Stacey S. Hannigon; 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.

Mr. McMillan 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." He stated that the mother of student #070-2425-0211 has expressed the desire for due process as provided for under Florida Statutes 120.57 and 1001.42. He 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 #070-2425-0211. He stated that by law, expulsion hearings are exempt from the public meetings act; however the parents have the right to waive the exemption and have an open hearing pursuant to Section 286.001, F.S.

Mr. McMillan stated for the record that the mother of student #070-2425-0211 did not waive her right and the hearing was closed to the public.

Mr. McMillan stated that the hearing for student #070-2425-0211 was for school property damage.

The mother of student #070-2425-0211 stated that the hearing was requested because she thought the punishment was too harsh for the student.

The following witnesses were present for the hearing. 1) Ms. Camry Floyd, Principal of James A. Shanks Middle School; 2) Ms. Shereka Hutley, Assistant Principal of James A. Shanks Middle School; 3) mother of student #070-2425-0211; 4) student #070-2425-0211; 5) Counselor of student #070-2425-0211; and 6) Life Coach of student #070-2425-0211.

Sworn testimony was given by the following witnesses: 1) Ms. Camry Floyd, Principal of James A. Shanks Middle School; 2) Ms. Shereka Hutley, Assistant Principal of James A. Shanks Middle School; 3) mother of student #070-2425-0211; 4) student #070-2425-0211; 5) Counselor of student #070-2425-0211; and 6) Life Coach of student #070-2425-0211.

Mr. McMillan recessed the hearing at 7:30 p.m. for deliberation and reconvened at 7:44 p.m.

Mr. Key recommended that student #070-2425-0211 be expelled to Carter Parramore Academy for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year and the 1st semester of the 2025–2026 school year. 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 except the bus for the assigned school.

Ms. Stacey S. Hannigon made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to expel student #070-2425-0211 to Carter Parramore Academy for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year and the 1st semester of the 2025–2026 school year. 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 except the bus for the assigned school. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cathy S. Johnson and carried unanimously.

Attorney Deborah Minnis informed the mother of student #070-2425-0211 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 7:55 p.m.