

Board of Education
New Milford Public Schools
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NEW MILFORD, CT

PLEASE POST

October 18, 2021

PRESENT:

Hearing Officer: Attorney Michael P. McKeon, of Pullman & Comley LLC, served as hearing officer on behalf of the New Milford Board of Education

Others Present: For both hearings -- Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Superintendent of Schools; Attorney Daniel P. Murphy, representing the Administration; Dr. Christopher Longo, Principal of Schaghticoke Middle School; and Cheryl D'Amato, the Court Reporter. For the first hearing only, the mother of the student who was the subject of the hearing. For the second hearing only, David Lewis, as witness for the family of the second hearing, the student who was the subject of the second hearing, and the parents and sibling of the student who was the subject of the second hearing.

The October 15, 2021 special meeting was called for the purpose of holding two separate student expulsion hearings. At the October 15 meeting, Attorney McKeon, serving as the hearing officer on behalf of the New Milford Board of Education, took the following actions.

Attorney McKeon called the hearing to order at 9:44 a.m. and at 9:45 a.m. moved the hearing into executive session as personally identifiable information relating to the student who was the subject of the first hearing was likely to be discussed. As part of that motion, Attorney McKeon invited into executive session the individuals listed above other than those who were only present for and who participated in the second hearing.

Attorney McKeon returned the hearing to public session at 9:59 a.m., at which time he took the following actions:

The hearing officer moved on behalf of the New Milford Board of Education that the parties' Stipulated Expulsion Agreement and Joint Recommendation that was presented by the parties during Executive Session regarding the student who is the subject of this hearing be adopted in total by the Board.

Thereafter, at 10:01 a.m. Attorney McKeon concluded the first hearing and took a recess of the meeting.

Attorney McKeon reconvened the special meeting at 10:33 a.m. and at 10:34 a.m. moved the hearing into executive session as personally identifiable information relating to the student who was the subject of the first hearing was likely to be discussed. As part of that motion, Attorney McKeon invited into executive session the parties listed above other than the mother of the student who was the subject of the first hearing, who was only present for and who participated in that first hearing.

Attorney McKeon returned the hearing to public session at 11:57 a.m., at which time he took the following actions:

I hereby move on behalf of the New Milford Board of Education that the student who was the subject of this hearing be expelled from the New Milford Public Schools and from all school-sponsored activities — either on school grounds or at an alternative location — effective as of today, October 15, 2021 and continuing up through and including the last day of the 2021-2022 school year. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the student will be permitted to return to school on a probationary period on the first day of the second quarter of the 2021-2022 school year, which is currently anticipated to be November 5, 2021, if, at the sole discretion of the Superintendent of Schools, the student has participated in and not had any unexcused absences from the student's alternative educational opportunity, which the district will provide during the period of actual exclusion, has maintained passing grades in the student's alternative educational opportunity, has regularly attended counseling, the nature and frequency of which will be determined by the Superintendent in conjunction with the student's Planning and Placement Team, and has not engaged in any behavior that would constitute a suspendable or expellable offense or a violation of the law. Should the student be permitted to return to school on a probationary basis as of the first day of the second quarter of the current school year, the student will remain on probationary status for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year, during which time the student will continue within the therapeutic program at the school unless the PPT determines otherwise, and should the student engage in any behavior that would constitute a suspendable or an expellable offense, the unserved portion of this expulsion will be reinstated immediately without the need for another hearing or, should it rise to the level of an expellable offense, the Administration will be free to request another expulsion hearing.

Attorney McKeon adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alisha DiCorpo".

Alisha DiCorpo
Superintendent
New Milford Public Schools