

**Board of Education**  
New Milford Public Schools  
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NEW MILFORD, CT

**PLEASE POST**

October 21, 2021

**PRESENT:**

**Hearing Officer:** Attorney Zachary D. Schurin, 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 and Cheryl D'Amato, the Court Reporter. For the first hearing only, Schaghticoke Middle School Assistant Principals Barbara Nanassy and Catherine Calabrese and the father, mother and sibling of the student who was the subject of the hearing. For the second hearing only, Anthony Giovannone, Director of Fiscal Services and Operations; Stephen Gardner, General Manager, All-Star Transportation; Patty Coty, Manager, All-Star Transportation and the mother and father who had requested the transportation hearing on behalf of their child.

The October 20, 2021 special meeting was called for the purpose of holding a student expulsion hearing and a separate, unrelated, student transportation hearing. At the October 20th meeting, Attorney Schurin, serving as the hearing officer on behalf of the New Milford Board of Education, took the following actions.

Attorney Schurin called the student expulsion hearing to order at 3:00 p.m. and at 3:02 p.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 Schurin invited into executive session the individuals listed above other than those who were only present for and who participated in the second hearing.

The evidentiary portion of the hearing as well as the Hearing Officer's deliberations having concluded, Attorney Schurin returned the hearing to public session at 4:09 p.m., at which time he took the following actions:

Based upon the factual findings adopted by the Board of Education, the student who was the subject of this expulsion hearing shall be expelled from the New Milford Public Schools' and from all school-sponsored activities, either curricular or extracurricular, either on school grounds or at an alternative location, for a period of one calendar year effective as of October 20, 2021 and continuing up through and including September 27, 2022. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the student will be permitted to return to school on a probationary basis as of November 15, 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, the student maintains passing grades in all classes, the student continues to regularly attend counseling in a form and frequency subject to approval by the Superintendent but at the parents' sole expense and the student commits no further violations of school rules, Board policy or the law. If the student is readmitted on a probationary basis but fails to meet the aforementioned conditions during the period of readmission to school on a probationary basis, the Superintendent may reinstate any unserved portion of the student's expulsion without the need for a hearing unless it is determined by the student's PPT that the student's violation of any school rule, Board policy or the law was a manifestation of the student's disability. Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-233d(f)(2), the notice of the student's expulsion shall be expunged from the student's cumulative educational record at the time the student satisfactorily completes the Board's specified program and conditions set forth above, as determined by the Superintendent of Schools. Should the student fail to satisfactorily complete the above-specified program and conditions, such notice shall not be expunged from the student's cumulative educational record until the student graduates from high school.

Thereafter, at 4:10 p.m. Attorney Schurin concluded the first hearing and took a recess of the meeting.

Attorney Schurin reconvened the special meeting at 4:24 p.m. for the purpose of holding a student transportation hearing. At 4:25 p.m. Attorney Schurin moved the hearing into executive session as personally identifiable information relating to the student who was the subject of hearing was likely to be discussed and invited into the executive session the individuals listed above other than those who were only present for and who participated in the first hearing.

The evidentiary portion of the hearing as well as the Hearing Officer's deliberations having concluded, Attorney Schurin returned the hearing to public session at 6:23 p.m., at which time he made the following motion:

On behalf of the New Milford Board of Education, and based upon the evidence that was introduced during the foregoing hearing, and in accordance with the applicable law, I hereby find the Administration's denial of the transportation services requested by the parents on behalf of their child – who resides within the Town of New Milford – complied with the provisions set forth in Board of Education Policy # 3541 and applicable law, and therefore, the parents' request for such services is denied.

Attorney Schurin moved to adjourn the special meeting at 6:24 p.m., at which time the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Alisha DiCorpo  
Superintendent  
New Milford Public Schools