

STUDENT HEARING

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

May 6, 2024

5:00 P.M.

A hearing for student case #117-2324-0231 convened at 5:22 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 #117-2324-0231 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 #117-2324-0231. 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 #117-2324-0231 did not waive her right and the hearing was closed to the public.

Mrs. Dudley stated that the hearing for student #117-2324-0231 was for fighting/excessive discipline infractions.

The following witnesses were present for the hearing. 1) Mrs. Catina Simmons-Russ, Principal of Carter Parramore Academy; 2) mother of student #117-2324-0231; and 3) student #117-2324-0231.

The following witnesses gave sworn testimony: 1) Mrs. Catina Simmons-Russ, Principal of Carter Parramore Academy; 2) mother of student #117-2324-0231; and 3) student #117-2324-0231.

Mrs. Dudley recessed the hearing at 6:08 p.m. for deliberation and reconvened at 6:25 p.m.

Mr. Key recommended that student #117-2324-0231 be expelled to Carter Parramore Academy for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year, and the 2024 - 2025 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.

Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to expel student #117-2324-0231 to Carter Parramore Academy for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year and the 2024-2025 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 Mr. Leroy McMillan and carried unanimously.

Attorney Deborah Minnis informed the mother of student #117-2324-0231 of her right to file an appeal with the 1st District Court of Appeal if she objected to the Board's ruling. She stated that the mother would receive a copy of the final order in writing.

The hearing adjourned at 6:30 p.m.