

## STUDENT HEARING

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

January 29, 2024

4:30 P.M.

A hearing for student case #80-2324-0051 convened at 4:40 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 #80-2324-0051 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 #80-2324-0051. 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 #80-2324-0051 did not waive her right and the hearing was closed to the public.

Mrs. Dudley stated that the hearing for student #80-2324-0051 was for fighting.

The following witnesses were present for the hearing. 1) Mr. O’Hara Black, Assistant Principal of Gadsden County High School; 2) mother of student #80-2324-0051; 3) student #80-2324-0051; and 4) uncle of student #80-2324-0051.

The following witnesses gave sworn testimony: 1) Mr. O’Hara Black; 2) mother of student #80-2324-0051; 3) student #80-2324-0051; and 4) uncle of student #80-2324-0051.

Mrs. Dudley recessed the hearing at 5:08 p.m. for deliberation and reconvened at 5:20 p.m.

During deliberation, Mr. Key made a recommendation to expel student #80-2324-0051 to Carter Parramore Academy for the remainder of the 2023 – 2024 school year up to the first semester of the 2024 – 2025 school year. Student will be re-evaluated at the end of the first semester with the possibility of returning to Gadsden County High School the first semester of 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 for the assigned school.

Mr. Leroy McMillan made a motion to expel student #80-2324-0051 to Carter Parramore Academy for the remainder of the 2023 – 2024 school year up to the first semester of the 2024 – 2025 school year. Student will be re-evaluated at the end of the first semester with the possibility of returning to Gadsden County High School the first semester of 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 for the assigned school. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cathy S. Johnson and carried unanimously.

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

The hearing adjourned at 5:25 p.m.