

STUDENT HEARING

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

May 6, 2024

6:00 P.M.

A hearing for student case #113-2324-0211 convened at 6:36 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 #113-2324-0211 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 #113-2324-0211. 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 #113-2324-0211 did not waive her right and the hearing was closed to the public.

Mrs. Dudley stated that the hearing for student #113-2324-0211 was for a major disruption on school campus.

The following witnesses were present for the hearing. 1) Dr. Kisha Jarett, Principal of James A. Shanks Middle School; 2) mother of student #113-2324-0211; 3) student #113-2324-0211; and 4) Ms. Nancy Sierra, Interpreter.

The following witnesses gave sworn testimony: 1) Dr. Kisha Jarett, Principal of James A. Shanks Middle School; 2) mother of student #113-2324-0211; 3) student #113-2324-0211; and 4) Ms. Nancy Sierra, Interpreter.

Mrs. Dudley recessed the hearing at 6:55 p.m. for deliberation and reconvened at 7:08 p.m.

Mr. Key recommended that student #113-2324-0211 be expelled from all schools for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year, with the option to enroll in virtual school the 1st semester of the 2024 – 2025 school year, and enroll in Carter Parramore Academy the 2nd semester of the 2024 – 2025 school year.

Mr. Leroy McMillan made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to expel student #113-2324-0211 from all schools for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year, with the option to enroll in virtual school the 1st semester of the 2024 – 2025 school year, and enroll in Carter Parramore Academy the 2nd semester of the 2024 – 2025 school year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

Attorney Deborah Minnis informed the mother of student #113-2324-0211 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 7:20 p.m.