

STUDENT HEARING

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

March 9, 2023

5:00 P.M.

A hearing for student case #58-2223-0091 convened at 5:02 p.m.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Leroy McMillan, Chairman; Mrs. Karema D. Dudley; Mr. Steve Scott; Ms. Cathy S. Johnson; and Mr. Charlie D. Frost. Also present were Mr. Elijah Key, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board; Mrs. Deborah Minnis, Attorney for the Board; and others.

The proceedings were electronically recorded.

Mr. McMillan 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." He stated that the mother of student #58-2223-0091 has expressed the desire for due process as provided for under Florida Statutes 120.57 and 1001.42. He 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 #58-2223-0091. He stated that by law, expulsion hearings are exempt from the public meetings act; however the parents have the right to waive the exemption and have an open hearing pursuant to Section 286.001, F.S.

Mr. McMillan stated for the record that the mother of student #58-2223-0091 did not waive her right and the hearing was closed to the public.

Mr. McMillan stated that the hearing for student #58-2223-0091 was for verbal altercation with an adult.

The mother of student #58-2223-0091 stated that the hearing was requested because she thought the punishment was too harsh for the student.

The following witnesses were present for the hearing. 1) Ms. Thelma Hickman, Principal of Havana Magnet School; 2) Ms. Sandra Riggins, Assistant Principal of Havana Magnet School; 3) Ms. Deborah Shaffer, Assistant Principal of Havana, Magnet School; 4) mother of student #58-2223-0091; and 5) student #58-2223-0091.

Sworn testimony was given by the following witnesses: 1) Ms. Thelma Hickman, Principal of Havana Magnet School; 2) Ms. Sandra Riggins, Assistant Principal of Havana Magnet School; 3) mother of student #58-2223-0091; and student #58-2223-0091.

Mr. McMillan recessed the hearing at 5:57 p.m. for deliberation and reconvened at 6:05 p.m.

Mr. Key recommended that student #58-2223-0091 be expelled to Carter Parramore Academy for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year and the 1st semester of the 2023–2024 school year. His academic progress will be assessed and future placement will be determined. 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. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to expel student #58-2223-0091 to Carter Parramore Academy for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year and the 1st semester of the 2023–2024 school year. His academic progress will be assessed and future placement will be determined. 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. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

Attorney Deborah Minnis informed the mother of student #58-2223-0091 of her right to file an appeal with the 1st District Court of Appeal if she objected to the Board’s ruling.

The hearing adjourned at 6:08 p.m.