

New Milford Board of Education

50 East Street

New Milford, Connecticut 06776

(860) 355-8406 FAX (860) 210-4132

PLEASE POST

March 28, 2014

There will be a special meeting of the New Milford Board of Education at 6:00 on the evening of Wednesday, April 2, 2014, at the New Milford Board of Education, 50 East Street, New Milford, Connecticut, for the purpose of conducting student expulsion hearings. At the April 2 meeting, the Board will entertain a motion at the outset of each expulsion hearing to convene in executive session during which matters concerning the personal privacy of the student or students involved is likely to be discussed. Should the respective student's parents request that the student's hearing be held in public session, the Board will do so unless it determines that an open session will implicate the confidentiality and personal privacy of other New Milford Public School students. The Board of Education may take action when it returns to open session following each hearing.

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April 7, 2014

PRESENT:

Board Members: Daniele Shook, Dave Littlefield, Angela C. Chastain, and John W. Spatola

Others Present: Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote, Greg Shugrue, Marc Balanda, Stephen M. Sedor, Esq., Michael P. McKeon, Esq. and Cheryl D'Amato were present for both of the student disciplinary hearings that comprised the special meeting. Elizabeth Curtis, Vanessa Gronbach, Esq., the student who was the subject of the first hearing, the student's parents, and his grandfather were present for the first hearing. Steven Smart, Esq., the student who was the subject of the second hearing, and the student's mother were present for the second hearing.

At the April 2, 2014 special meeting of the New Milford Board of Education, the Board took the following actions.

The special meeting was called to order at 6:22 p.m., and Ms. Chastain immediately moved and Mr. Spatola seconded, that the Board enter into executive session for the purpose of conducting a student expulsion hearing, during which matters of personal privacy of the student involved were likely to be discussed and invited into executive session the individuals listed above who were present for the first hearing. The motion passed unanimously.

At 8:17 p.m., the Board returned to open session and Ms. Shook moved and Mr. Littlefield seconded, that the Board of Education adopt the findings of fact discussed in executive session regarding the student who was the subject of this expulsion hearing. The motion passed unanimously.

At 8:20 p.m., Ms. Shook moved and Mr. Littlefield seconded, that as a consequence of the factual findings adopted by the Board of Education, that the student who was the subject of this expulsion hearing be expelled from the New Milford Public Schools and from all school-sponsored activities, either curricular or extracurricular, either on school grounds or at another location, for a period of one calendar year, effective retroactively to March 18, 2014, and that the student be offered an alternative educational opportunity determined by the Superintendent of Schools during this period of expulsion. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the student may apply for readmission to school at the end of the first semester of the 2014-2015 school year, if the student satisfies the following conditions: 1) full and adequate participation in any offered alternative educational opportunity, including but not limited to no unexcused absences; 2) the provision of written authorization, permitting the Superintendent or the

Superintendent's designee to speak with the student's drug treatment counselor during the period of the student's exclusion regarding his cooperation with the drug treatment and regarding the results of drug testing; 3) the completion of drug testing at the parent's expense no earlier than ten calendar days before the date of the proposed early readmission and the provision to the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee of the written report of that testing indicating that the student is drug free; 4) no violations of the law or conduct that would constitute grounds for suspension or expulsion under publicized Board policies.

The determination as to whether the student has met these conditions shall be at the sole discretion of the Superintendent of Schools with the stipulation that if the student is readmitted early, the student must continue to meet condition 4 as set forth above, must submit to random drug testing at the parents' expense, the results of which will be provided to the Superintendent or to the Superintendent's designee, and the student must submit to random searches of his locker and backpack by the Administration of New Milford High School. If the student fails to meet any of these conditions upon readmission, the Superintendent may reinstate any unserved period of expulsion without a hearing or may otherwise commence new disciplinary proceedings, whichever is appropriate.

Ms. Shook, Mr. Littlefield and Mr. Spatola voted to approve the motion. Ms. Chastain abstained. The motion passed.

At 8:21 p.m., Mr. Littlefield moved, and Mr. Spatola seconded that the Board of Education adjourn the student disciplinary hearing. The motion passed unanimously.

At 9:00, Ms. Chastain moved and Mr. Littlefield seconded, that the Board enter into executive session for the purpose of conducting a student expulsion hearing, during which matters of personal privacy of the student involved were likely to be discussed and invited into executive session the individuals listed above who were present for the second hearing. The motion passed unanimously.

At 9:27 p.m., the Board returned to open session and Ms. Chastain moved and Mr. Spatola seconded, that the Board of Education adopt in its entirety the Parties' Stipulated Statement of Facts and Joint Recommendation that was discussed in executive session regarding the student who was the subject of this expulsion hearing. The motion passed unanimously.

At 9:28 p.m., Ms. Chastain moved, and Mr. Littlefield seconded, that the Board of Education adjourn the special meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Angela C. Chastain
New Milford Board of Education

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