

The Board of Education Town of Vernon

30 Park Street – PO Box 600
Vernon, Connecticut 06066

Paul Grabowski, Chair
Kristiana Wintress, Vice Chair
Karen Colt, Secretary
Anthony Bedlack
Patricia Buxton
Susan Jablonecki
Kriste Nucci
Simone Sewell
Mason Thrall

February 27, 2024

APPROVED MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING EXPULSION HEARING CONTINUANCE

A Vernon Board of Education Special Meeting – Expulsion Hearing Continuance was held on Tuesday, February 27, 2024.

The record of the expulsion hearing continuance minutes is limited to the motion in regard to the disciplinary decision in order to protect the privacy of the individual. An audio tape will be retained in the Central Office of the Vernon Board of Education.

Mr. Grabowski, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Board members present: Mr. Grabowski, Dr. Buxton, Ms. Sewell, Ms. Nucci and Mr. Bedlack. Ms. Wintress, Ms. Colt. Mr. Thrall and Mrs. Jablonecki were unable to attend.

Administration Present: Superintendent Dr. Joseph Macary, Rockville High School Principal Mr. Jason Magao, Rockville High School Assistant Principal Mr. Daniel Pichette, and Recorder Mrs. Diane Ritchotte.

Board's Counsel Present: Attorney Fred Dorsey

Administration's Counsel Present: Attorney Chris Chinni

Also Present: Officer James Platosh

Parents and Student were not in attendance

MOTION: Mr. Bedlack moved for the Board to go into Executive Session at 6:05 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a continuance of a student expulsion hearing, inviting Administration, Officer Platosh, Attorney Chinni and Attorney Dorsey.

SECOND: Ms. Nucci

VOTE: Unanimous

The Board came out of Executive Session at 6:17 p.m.

MOTION: Dr. Buxton moved that, pursuant to Connecticut Gen. Statutes Section 10-233d, the Vernon Board of Education shall expel the student discussed in executive session from attendance at Rockville High School for the period from February 1, 2024, through and including January 31, 2025, for the reasons presented by the Administration in this hearing.

Further, the Board directs the Administration to establish and offer an alternative educational opportunity to the student for the period of this expulsion, pursuant to Connecticut Gen. Statutes 10-233d(d) and in compliance with State Department of Education regulations.

The Board further directs the Administration, pursuant to Connecticut Gen. Statutes Section 10-233d(f), to record this expulsion on the student's cumulative educational record, to be expunged from such record if the student graduates from high school, or as in accordance with the Board's then-existing policies and/or State law.

Finally, the Board authorizes Board Chair Paul Grabowski and Attorney Frederick Dorsey to communicate in writing to the student and/or his/her parents/guardians/attorney, as appropriate, the Board's decision and the reasons therefore, consistent with the Board's executive session discussion.

SECOND: Mr. Bedlack
VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: Mr. Bedlack moved to accept Superintendent Dr. Joseph Macary's recommendation that the student be expelled for one calendar year (180 School Days), effective immediately (through January 31, 2025) and that during that time he is excluded from school. He may not be present on any Board of Education property or attend or participate in any school or athletic activities, whether home or away. During this time...

1. The student will receive an alternative educational opportunity (a Special Education Outplacement) established by the Administration at Board expense. He must regularly attend and successfully pass all of his courses. (Note: every day the student does not attend this school, his probation officer will be notified.)
2. The student must see a social worker or guidance counselor at least one time a week for social and emotional support to be determined by the Administration.
3. The student shall act within acceptable behaviors (no disciplinary referrals or issues related to criminal activities) throughout the school year.

SECOND: Ms. Nucci
VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: Dr. Buxton moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 PM
SECOND: Mr. Bedlack
VOTE: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Colt, Board Secretary