



Duval County Public Schools

January 10, 2012 - Special Board Meeting - Student Expulsion Hearings

January 10, 2012, Special Board Meeting - Student Expulsion Hearings

Ms. Betty Burney, Chairman
Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Vice Chairman
Ms. Martha Barrett
Ms. Becki Couch
Mr. W. C. Gentry
Mr. Tommy Hazouri
Ms. Paula D. Wright
Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent

ATTENDANCE AT THIS SPECIAL MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD with Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent, Ms. Betty Burney, Board Chair, Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Vice Chairman, Ms. Becki Couch, Board Member, Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Member and Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member, present. Board Members Martha Barrett and W. C. Gentry were absent.

Call Meeting To Order

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman called the Student Expulsion Hearing to order at 11:21 a.m.

Alternative Education - Behavioral Support

[EXPULSION OF M. S.](#)

Minutes:

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Present:

Ms. Patricia Willis, Deputy Superintendent
Dr. Dana Kriznar, Executive Director, Alternative Ed/Behavioral Support
Ms. Sonita Young, Executive Director, Policy and Compliance
Ms. Gloria Lockley, General Director, Alternative Ed/Behavioral Support
Ms. Bea Lewis, Hearing Officer
Ms. Susan Leach, Supervisor, Psychology & Social Work
Mr. Ken Sutton, Executive Director, EE/SS
Mr. Jeffrey Miller, Assistant Principal, Dinsmore Elementary School
Ms. Dorothy Leitch, Teacher, Dinsmore Elementary School
Ms. Katie Smith, Teacher, Dinsmore Elementary School
Ms. Sylvia Johnson, Executive Director, Elementary
Officer Roger Schlesier, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office
Detective Rick Dowling, DCPS Policy
Ms. Michelle Fulkman, Parent
M.S., Student

Ms. Lewis presented the case and distributed pertinent information regarding the following:

M.S., a 9 year old, third grade student, was charged with a 4.08 - Possession of a Firearm. On December 9, 2011, M.S. brought a handgun to school.

Florida Statute 1006.13, Policy of Zero Tolerance for Crime and Victimization, states that each district School Board shall adopt a policy of Zero Tolerance. The Zero Tolerance policy shall require students found to have committed one of the following offenses to be expelled, with or without continuing educational services, from the student's regular school for a period of not less than one (1) full year, and to be referred to the Criminal Juvenile Justice system.

(a) Bringing a firearm or weapon, as defined in Chapter 790, to school, to any school function, or possessing a firearm at school.

The Duval County Code of Student conduct establishes the School Board's policy on Zero Tolerance offenses. Code 4.08, Possession of Firearms, states that any student who is determined to have brought a firearm as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921, to school, to any school function, or on any school-sponsored transportation will be expelled, with or without continuing educational services, from the student's regular school for a period not less than one (1) full year. The expulsion requirement is subject to modification, on a case-by-case basis, as allowed by law. A student who is determined to have brought a firearm to school will be referred for criminal prosecution.

Superintendents may consider the one-year expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis and request that the School Board modify the requirement if it is determined to be in the best interest of the student and the school system. Since M.S. is a 9 year old, third grade student, expulsion does not appear to be in the best interest of the child or district. Therefore, it is recommended that the Board modify the expulsion requirement and require M.S.'s mother to enroll in the district's Student Option for Success Program, enroll in counseling as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct

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manual and allow M.S. to continue his education at a district assigned elementary school.

Speakers:

Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Member
Officer Roger Schleiser, JSO
Detective Rick Dowling, DCPS Police
Mr. Fel Lee, Vice Chairman
Ms. Betty Burney, Board Chair
Ms. Michell Fulkman, Parent
M.S., Student
Ms. Dorothy Leitch, Teacher, Dinsmore Elementary School
Ms. Becki Couch, Board Member
Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member
Mr. Jeffrey Miller, Assistant Principal, Dinsmore Elementary School
Ms. Susan Leach, Supervisor, Psychology & Social Work
Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Patricia Willis, Deputy Superintendent

Superintendent Ed Pratt-Dannals said his recommendation would be to withhold the expulsion and that district staff request a psychological evaluation. Following the evaluation, we would make a determination as to what appropriate educational setting would serve M.S. as well as any mental health services that would be appropriate. We would work with the parents on executing a plan with the idea to expedite this as quickly as possible to have M.S. placed into an appropriate setting.

Board Member Hazouri moved to accept the Superintendent's recommendation; Board Member Couch seconded the motion.

Speakers:

Ms. Becki Couch, Board Member
Ms. Patricia Willis, Deputy Superintendent
Mrs. Michelle Fulkman, Parent
Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent of Schools

Board Member Hazouri requested a follow-up report be sent to the Board after all tests have been concluded with M.S.

The Superintendent said we did have an additional requirement for this student and parent(s) to go through the Student Option for Success (SOS) Program which is a six week, two evenings per week, session where the parent and child go through goal setting, how to interact with parents and peers, how to handle anger issues; basically, how to work out various issues. This is something we require for some students before they are assigned to an alternative school which has been very successful. This would be a further requirement for M.S.

Board Member Hazouri amended his motion to add the requirement of the SOS program, as stated by the Superintendent. Board Member Couch seconded the amendment.

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Vote on the Amendment: PASS

Motion: Tommy Hazouri
Second: Becki Couch

Betty Burney - Aye
Becki Couch - Aye
Tommy Hazouri - Aye
Fel Lee - Aye
Paula D. Wright - Aye

Vote on the motion, as amended: PASS

Betty Burney - Aye
Becki Couch - Aye
Tommy Hazouri - Aye
Fel Lee - Aye
Paula D. Wright - Aye

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The Student Expulsion Hearing adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

Isd

Superintendent

Chairman