



Duval County Public Schools

July 14, 2009, Special Board Meeting - Student Expulsion Hearings

Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Chairman
Ms. Brenda Priestly Jackson, Vice-Chairman
Ms. Nancy Broner
Ms. Betty Burney
Ms. Vicki Drake
Mr. W. C. Gentry
Mr. Stan Jordan
Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent

ATTENDANCE AT THS SPECIAL MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD: All Board Members were present. Ms. Pat Willis, Deputy Superintendent, was also present.

Call Meeting To Order

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes: The Chairman called the Special Meeting to order at 9:18 a.m.

Academic Services - Special Services

[EXPULSION OF B. J.](#)

Minutes:

Present:

Ms. Patricia Willis, Deputy Superintendent
Ms. Sonita Young, Office of Policy and Compliance
Ms. Gloria Lockley, Director, Alternative Education

Ms. Bea Lewis, Hearing Officer
Ms. Sabrina Hamilton, VP, Ribault High School
Officer Willie Cummings, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office
Ms. Lorraine Slappy, Grandmother
B. J., Student

On March 26, 2009, B. J. was arrested for possession of a firearm and 45 rounds of ammunition at Ribault High School.

Due to the seriousness of B. J.'s offense and the requirements of 18 U.S.C. 921, to expel students who possess a firearm at school, it is recommended that B. J. be expelled for all of the 2009-2010 school year.

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 justice or 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 education 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.

Ms. Lewis provided the Board with background information on the Code of Student Conduct Charge - 4.08 - Possession of a Firearm. Staff's recommendation is that B. J. be expelled for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year and all of the 2009-2010 school year.

Ms. Slappy indicated that she checks her grandson's bookbag on a regular basis and did not know he had a gun. She stated that he has been hanging out with the wrong crowd and that the gun belonged to one of his friends, however, that person did not get into trouble.

B. J. addressed the Board and shared that he was on 5 years probation, must do 75 hours of community service, has a curfew, and must complete his education.

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board expel B. J.

for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year and the 2009-2010 school year with continuing educational services, and further, require a psychological or sociological assessment to see what other services the school system can provide.

- PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Brenda Priestly jackson

Second: Nancy Broner

Nancy Broner - Aye

Betty Burney - Aye

Victoria Drake - Aye

William Gentry - Aye

Thomas Hazouri - Aye

Stan Jordan - Abstain

Brenda Priestly jackson - Aye

[EXPULSION OF D. O.](#)

Minutes:

Present:

Ms. Patricia Willis, Deputy Superintendent
Ms. Sonita Young, Office of Policy and Compliance
Ms. Gloria Lockley, Director, Alternative Education
Ms. Bea Lewis, Hearing Officer
Mr. Dererick Oglesby, Parent
D. O., Student

On May 21, 2009, D. O. was arrested for possession of a firearm at Ribault Middle School.

Due to the seriousness of D. O.'s offense and the requirements of 18 U.S.C. 921, to expel students who possess a firearm at school, it is recommended that D. O. be expelled for all of the 2009-2010 school year.

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 justice of juvenile justice system.

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Ms. Lewis provided the Board with background information on the Code of Student Conduct Charge - 4.08 - Possession of a Firearm. Staff's recommendation is that D. O. be expelled for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year and all of the 2009-2010 school year.

D. O. made a statement to the Board, indicating that another girl and her cousins and friends had been harassing her and trying to fight her at school. She went to Ms. Brown at the school, and each time Ms. Brown would talk to the other girl and then tell D. O. that it was handled. She would not get them all in the room at the same time and speak to them about the situation. The harassment continued. D. O. found a gun laying by a car in their backyard and took it to school in her bookbag, but that she did not intend to use the gun.

Mr. Oglesby indicated that he had also spoke to staff about the harassment on several occasions.

No one from the school was present for the hearing.

After discussion it was decided that a decision on this case would be deferred until staff from the school could be present to provide additional information to the Board.

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board defer this item until staff from the school can be present to - PASS provide additional information.

Vote Results

Motion: William Gentry

Second: Victoria Drake

Nancy Broner	- Not Present
Betty Burney	- Aye
Victoria Drake	- Aye
William Gentry	- Aye
Thomas Hazouri	- Aye
Stan Jordan	- Aye
Brenda Priestly Jackson	- Aye

EXPULSION OF C. G.

Minutes:

Present:

- Ms. Patricia Willis, Deputy Superintendent
- Ms. Sonita Young, Office of Policy and Compliance
- Ms. Gloria Lockley, Director, Alternative Education
- Ms. Bea Lewis, Hearing Officer
- Ms. Sabrina Hamilton, VP, Ribault High School
- Officer Willie Cummings, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office
- Ms. Nicole Gillyard, Parent
- C. G., Student

On March 25, 2009, following a random search of lockers, C. G. admitted that a book bag which contained a gun belonged to him.

Due to the seriousness of C. G.'s offense and the requirements of 18 U.S.C. 921, to expel students who possess a firearm at school, it is recommended that C. G. be expelled for all of the 2009-2010 school year.

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 justice of juvenile justice system.

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or without continuing education 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.

Ms. Lewis provided the Board with background information on the Code of Student Conduct Charge - 4.08 - Possession of a Firearm. Staff's recommendation is that C.G. be expelled for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year and all of the 2009-2010 school year.

Ms. Gillyard made a statement to the Board. She does not condone her son having a gun. Other than some attitude issues he has been a good student. She would like for him to get his GED, however, he wants to go back to school and get a regular diploma so he can go on to college. At his hearing the Judge gave him 5 years probation, he cannot have any weapons, drugs, or alcohol. He received 75 hours of community service, and has to attend counseling classes.

C.G. addressed the Board indicating that he knows he made poor choices and his decisions were not right. He would like to be able to stay in school and receive a high school diploma.

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board expel C.G. for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year and the 2009-2010 school year, and offer continuing services as determined by the District. Further, staff will provide the Board with an update on this student at the end of the year and a determination will be made at that time whether or not to return him to school. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Brenda Priestly jackson

Second: Nancy Broner

Nancy Broner - Aye

Betty Burney - Aye

Victoria Drake - Aye

William Gentry - Aye

Thomas Hazouri - Aye

Stan Jordan	- Not Present
Brenda Priestly jackson	- Aye

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The Chairman adjourned the Special Board Meeting at 12:15 p.m.

BSC

Superintendent

Chairman