

Seymour Board of Education
SPECIAL BOE MEETING MINUTES

March 14, 2024

5:00 pm

Central Office

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Chris Champagne

Mr. Jim Garofolo

Ms. Lori Nespoli

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent of Schools

Attorney Michelle Laubin, Board Attorney

Ms. Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk

Mr. Keith O'Rourke

Ms. Alana Zhingri

Student

Student's Parent(s)

Student's Attorney

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. Mr. Champagne made the opening statement. I will now call to order a special meeting of the Expulsion Subcommittee of the Seymour Board of Education, which is called for the purpose of conducting a student expulsion hearing. It is the intention of the Board to conduct the expulsion hearing in Executive Session, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-233d, the public meeting requirements of the Freedom of Information Act, and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, since the personally identifiable information and records of the student who is the subject of the expulsion hearing are likely to be discussed. I will now entertain a motion to enter Executive Session.

II. STUDENT EXPULSION

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/Ms. Nespoli) I move that the Expulsion Subcommittee of the Board of Education enter executive session for the purpose of conducting a student expulsion hearing, during which matters of personal privacy of the student involved are likely to be discussed. Further, I move that the following persons are to be invited into Executive Session to assist in either giving testimony or evidence, or representing the various parties to the proceeding: Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Keith O'Rourke, Principal, Seymour Middle School, Ms. Alana Zhingri, Administrative Assistant, Mr. Edward Henry, Director of Security, the student who is the subject of the expulsion proceedings; the student's parent, the student's attorney, Attorney Michelle Laubin, the Board's procedural advisor, and Lee-Ann Dauerty, Recording Secretary

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Nespoli

MOTION PASSES: 3-0-0

All those mentioned in the above motion met in Executive Session starting at 5:35 p.m. The Board members entered into deliberations for the first phase of the hearing at 7:18 p.m. The Board returned from deliberations at 7:54 p.m. to discuss phase two of the hearing. They entered into deliberations for phase 2 at 8:11 pm and came out of deliberations at 8:25 pm. The meeting moved to public session at 8:27 p.m.

The meeting moved to public session at 8:27 pm

MOTION: (Mr. Champagne/sec., Ms. Nespoli) I move that the student about whom the expulsion hearing was conducted on March 14, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. is to be expelled, effective immediately, until February 28, 2025. During the term of this expulsion, the student shall be provided with an alternative education opportunity. If, in the judgement of the Superintendent of Schools, the student has actively and cooperatively participated in the alternative education program, successfully completing the 7th grade and if the student complies with a requirement to comply with the student code of conduct including refraining from making any threatening statements on and off social media, and completes 20 hours of community service, the student may be reenrolled in the regular school program on a probationary basis on the first day of the 2024-2025 school year. Under the terms of this probation, if the student commits any offense which otherwise would be punishable by either an in-school or out-of-school suspension, the student's expulsion will resume immediately and will continue until

February 28, 2025. I further authorize Board counsel to prepare a written decision consistent with these findings to be entered into the record of this matter and provided to the parents and the student.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Nespoli

MOTION: (Mr. Garofolo/sec., Ms. Nespoli) to adjourn the meeting

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Nespoli

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk