

These minutes were approved by the Torrington Board of Education on May 23, 2018.



Torrington Board of Education

FIONA CAPPABIANCA
BOE CHAIR

DENISE L. CLEMONS
SUPERINTENDENT

Torrington Board of Education Special Meeting Discussion of Confidential Student Matter Tuesday, May 1, 6:30 p.m. 355 Migeon Avenue

Board Members Present: Edward Corey, Ellen Hoehne, John Kissko, Jessica Richardson, Peter Vergaro

1. Call to Order – Approximately 7:00PM
2. Motion to go into executive session to discuss a confidential student matter, Mr. Vergaro, seconded by Ms. Hoehne. All in favor.

Move that the Board enter executive session to discuss a confidential student matter.

The Board invited the following individuals (in addition to Board members and its counsel, Jessica Ritter) into the executive session:

Denise Clemons, Superintendent

Michael McKeon, Attorney for the Administration

Andrew Skarzynski, Principal

Dr. Jeffrey Shannon, Assistant Principal

Student who is the subject of the hearing and his mother and his cousin

Approximately 7:20PM – Everyone excused for Board deliberations, except for Board counsel, Jessica Ritter.

Approximately 7:25PM – Meeting resumes. All meeting participants return. Mr. Vergaro makes the following motion in open session:

That the Torrington Board of Education finds, based on the evidence in the record that the student who is the subject of this hearing did, on or about April 13, 2018, engage in the unauthorized possession and consumption of a controlled substance on school grounds. Such conduct violated publicized policies of the Board, endangered persons, and was seriously disruptive of the educational process. As a result of the above findings, the

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Torrington Board of Education concludes that the student who is the subject of this hearing did commit an expellable offense.

Seconded by Ms. Hoehne, Motion Approved 4-1, Corey dissented.

Motion to go into executive session made by Mr. Vergaro, seconded by Ms. Hoehne. All in favor.

Moved that the Board enter executive session to discuss a confidential student matter. The Board invited the individuals above.

Approximately 7:45PM – Everyone excused for Board deliberations, except for Board counsel, Jessica Ritter.

Approximately 7:55PM – Meeting resumes. All meeting participants return. Mr. Vergaro makes the following motion in open session:

Moved, that the student who is the subject of this hearing shall be expelled from the Torrington Public Schools for one calendar year from the date of the incident, April 13, 2018. During the period of the expulsion the student who is the subject of this hearing shall not be allowed to enter any school property and/or participate in any school sponsored events and activities except for his participation in the alternative educational opportunity provided by the Torrington Public Schools or as otherwise expressly authorized in writing by the Superintendent or his designee.

During the expulsion period, the student shall receive an alternative educational opportunity. The Student may be permitted early readmission to school on the first day of the 2018-19 academic year if the Superintendent finds, in her sole discretion, that the student has met the following conditions:

- 1) *The Student regularly participates is cooperative, receives passing grades, and has no unexcused absences in the alternative educational opportunity;*
- 2) *The Student avoids any serious disciplinary incident that would result in an out of school suspension or expulsion as determined by the Superintendent;*
- 3) *The Student avoids any action that results in an arrest;*

If readmitted early, the Student will be on probation for the remainder of the original expulsion period. During the probation period, the Student must:

- 1) *Maintain passing grades;*
- 2) *Avoid any serious disciplinary incident that would result in an out of school suspension or expulsion as determined by the Superintendent;*
- 3) *Avoid any action that results in an arrest.*

If the Student violates any of the conditions of this probationary period, the Superintendent is authorized to reinstate the remaining term of his expulsion without the necessity of any

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further action by the Board. The Administration also reserves the right to impose additional disciplinary consequences for any future disciplinary violations which may occur during the student's period of expulsion or during the student's probationary return to school, depending on the severity and nature of any future misconduct.

Seconded by Ms. Hoehne. Approved 4-1, Corey dissented.

3. Mr. Vergaro moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Hoehne. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:58PM.