

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 17, 2016

A special meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, February 17, 2016, at 6:05 p.m. in the Litchfield High School Library Media Center.

Present were: Mr. Simone, Chair; Ms. Carr; Ms. Fabbri; Mr. Bongiorno; Mr. Clock; Mr. Falcetti; Mr. Pavlick; Mr. Shuhi; and Mr. Waugh.

Also present were: Superintendent McMullin; Ms. Della Volpe; Ms. Kubisek; Dr. Pascento; Attorney Murphy; Attorney Dugas; Trooper Rapp; Student A; Parents of Student A; Attorney Conti; Attorney Salerno; Student B; Parents of Student B; Attorney Moraghan and Mr. Paluch, Court Recorder.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: Move that the Board enter Executive Session to discuss a matter that would result in the disclosure of public records or the information contained therein as described in Connecticut General Statutes Sections 1-210(b)(2), (11) and (17). Further, that the Board invite the following individuals to attend the executive session:

1. Students A and B
2. Parents of Students A and B
3. William Conti, Student A's Counsel
4. Lynn McMullin, Superintendent
5. Carolyn Dugas, Counsel for the Administration
6. Stephanie Kubeseck, Principal
7. Dan Murphy, Counsel for the Board
8. Kristen Della Volpe, Principal
9. Trooper Kyle Rapp
10. Robert Salero, Student A's Counsel
11. Andrew Paluch, Court Reporter
12. Michael Pascento, Dean of Students
13. Attorney David Moraghan, Student B's Counsel

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions.

Executive Session

Arguments were presented for consideration of consolidating the two meetings.

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At 6:17 p.m. the Board and Attorney Murphy adjourned to a separate room to discuss a possible motion to consolidate.

At 6:32 p.m. the Board and Attorney Murphy returned to the Executive Session. No action was taken.

7:45 p.m. the Board and Attorney Murphy took a break.

7:50 p.m. Attorney Moraghan, Student B and Parents of Student B left.

7:55 p.m. the Board and Attorney Murphy returned to the Executive Session.

Returned to public session at 10:38 p.m.

MOTION made by Ms. Fabbri and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: I move that the Litchfield Board of Education find that the student discussed in Executive Session engaged in an expellable offense as described by the administration in this hearing and that such conduct was also seriously disruptive of the educational process.

MOTION carried. Ms. Fabbri; Mr. Bongiorno; Mr. Clock; Mr. Falcetti; Mr. Shuhi; Mr. Simone, and Mr. Waugh voted in the affirmative. Ms. Carr and Mr. Pavlick voted in the negative.

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Ms. Carr: to go into Executive Session at 10:40 p.m. for a student disciplinary matter.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions.

Executive Session

Returned to public session at 12:05 a.m.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: I move that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-233d, the Litchfield Board of Education shall expel the student discussed in executive session from attendance at Litchfield High School and from presence on school grounds and school sponsored activities for the period from November 2, 2015 until November 1, 2016, for the reasons presented by the administration in this hearing.

Further, the Board directs the administration to offer the student an alternative educational opportunity pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-233d(d) for the period of this expulsion.

The student shall be permitted to return to school effective with the commencement of the 4th marking period of the 2015-2016 school year if the following conditions are met in the discretion of the Superintendent of schools: 1) no further violations of school rules or the law; 2) 40 hours of community service in a form and frequency to be approved in advance by the Superintendent (to be commenced prior to returning to school and completed prior to November 1, 2015); 3) counseling in a form and frequency to be approved in advance by the Superintendent of schools. If readmitted early, the student shall continue to meet conditions 1-3 above or the Superintendent may reinstate any unserved period of expulsion or otherwise commence new disciplinary proceedings. The student must daily surrender his personal electronic devices to a school administrator and may not remove school computers from school grounds if readmitted early.

The Board also directs the administration, pursuant to Connecticut General 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 is readmitted early consistent with the provisions for early readmission set forth herein and meets all conditions of reinstatement through November 1, 2016.

Finally, the Board authorizes Frank Simone and Attorney Dan Murphy to communicate in writing the Board's decision and the reasons thereof, consistent with the Board's executive session discussion, to the student and his/her parent(s).

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to adjourn the meeting at 12:08 a.m.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions.

Respectfully submitted
Donald Falcetti, Secretary