

PROCEEDINGS
Board of Education
Alton Community Unit School District No. 11
1854 East Broadway
Alton, IL 62002
October 18, 2016
6:00 P.M.

A special meeting of the Board of Education was held at the Administrative Center, 1854 East Broadway, Alton, Illinois at 6:00 p.m. (began at 6:23 p.m.) on Tuesday, October 18, 2016.

The following board members answered present: Ed Gray, David Fritz, David Lauschke, Vivian Monckton, Barry Macias and George Terry

Others who were present: Mark Cappel, Interim Superintendent; Mike Bellm, Alton High School Principal; Stacie Franke, Dean of Students; Karen Botterbush, Supervisor of Special Education; Deputy Saffel, Madison County Sheriff's Office; Larry Busch, Hearing Officer; Kara Twichell, Secretary to the Board of Education and Teri Trapani, Secretary to the Assistant Superintendent

Student No. 199689, and parents/guardians were present.

Motion: Approval of Agenda of Special Meeting

It was moved by Ms. Monckton, seconded by Mr. Lauschke and carried unanimously that the Board of Education approve the agenda of special meeting.

Citizen Statement: None

Motion: Close Session

It was moved by Ms. Monckton, seconded by Mr. Fritz and carried unanimously that the Board of Education adjourn to a closed session meeting for the purpose of conducting a student disciplinary hearing.

Motion: Open Session

It was moved by Ms. Monckton, seconded by Mr. Lauschke and carried unanimously that the Board of Education resume in open session.

Motion: Action on Student Discipline Hearing

It was moved by Mr. Lauschke, seconded by Ms. Monckton and carried unanimously that the Board of Education, after considering evidence and mitigation witnesses, finds as follows: based upon and after the Board's consideration of the evidence and testimony of the expulsion hearing held on October 14, 2016, the Board of Education find that Student No. 199689 has committed an act of gross misconduct as charged by the District's Administration in that Student No. 199689 committed Assault & Battery, Fighting/Entering an Existing Fight, Disorderly Conduct and Engaging in Activity that Constitutes an Interference with School Purposes and Educational Function on September 27, 2016 in violation of Board Policy 7:210 Expulsion Procedures.

I move that the Board of Education expel Student No. 199689 for two years (October 18, 2016 – October 18, 2018, with option to return on Principal’s Probation in August 2018 pending good grades, attendance and discipline at the Safe School) but that the expulsion be held in abeyance and Student No. 199689 be administratively transferred to an alternative school as determined by the District’s Administration, pursuant to Article 13A of the Illinois School Code. Prior to considering a recommendation for expulsion, the District’s Administration attempted other behavioral and disciplinary interventions and determined there are no other appropriate and available behavioral and disciplinary interventions. The interventions previously attempted with the student included: The Student Handbook and Agenda that is passed out at Registration. The Back-to-School Assembly covers student behavior and expectations. Suspended Curriculum is presented in each classroom over the first two days of school. There is signage at various locations around school to remind students of expectations in those areas. This student’s bus is designed to arrive later in the morning after most other students have left the cafeteria and is met and supervised by staff from his program until he goes to class. There is supervision in the areas where the students can congregate in the mornings. There was a teacher’s assistant from the other student’s class very near who tried to get the other student to leave the area and go to his class. The security person recognized that the discussion was getting heated and moved to the area to attempt to prevent and stop the fight multiple times. An assistant principal came to the area just after the fight began and urged the students to stop multiple times.

Removing Student No. 199689 from the learning environment is in the best interest of the school because this student’s continued presence in school would pose a threat to the safety of other students, staff or members of the school community and substantially disrupt, impede or interfere with the operation of the school. The duration of Student No. 199689’s expulsion is appropriate based upon the gravity of the misconduct, the illegal nature of the misconduct, the safety concerns and disruption caused by the misconduct, and prior behavioral and disciplinary interventions to support the student and promote acceptable behavior.

The expulsion being held in abeyance is contingent upon the student’s full participation in the alternative school program, including regularly attending school; complying with attendance policies, school rules, and any referrals for services or counseling made by the alternative school; and successfully completing the alternative school’s curriculum.

I move that should Student No. 199689 fail to fully participate in the alternative school program and the alternative school refers the student back to the District, Student No. 199689 shall be immediately expelled from Alton Community Unit School District #11 for the remainder of the District Administration’s recommended expulsion duration, through October 18, 2018. DOB 6-26-01

President Gray adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

President

Secretary