

**Windsor Locks Board of Education
58 South Elm Street
Windsor Locks, CT 06096**

These minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
November 2, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.**

Members Present: D. Gragnolati, K. Christianson, J. Tria and
J. McGowan (via telephone)
Members Absent: M. Byrne
Administrators: S. Parkhurst, R. Bissonnette and K. Krupa
Staff: None
Students: Student B
Others: Mother of Student B and support person

I. Call to Order

Chairman Dennis Gragnolati called the Special Meeting to Order at 4:40 p.m., in the Windsor Locks Public School's Professional Development Room.

II. Roll Call

All Board Members were present other than Ms. Margaret Byrne and Mr. Jim McGowan was present via telephone.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone present stood and pledged allegiance to the flag.

IV. Executive Session

It was **MOVED** (Christianson) and **SECONDED** (Tria) and **PASSED** (U), that the Board of Education enters into Executive Session to conduct a student expulsion hearing and to preserve the confidentiality of student records, and that the following be invited to attend the executive session to offer testimony: Superintendent of Schools, High School Administration, witnesses to testify for the administration, student and parents, witnesses for student and parents, legal counsel for the Board of Education and the administration, and the student, if present.

Chairman Mr. Gragnolati asked all persons in attendance to identify themselves for the record:

Board of Education Members:

Mr. Dennis Gragnolati
Ms. Kylee Christianson
Mr. Joe Tria
Mr. Jim McGowan (via telephone)

Others:

Mother of Student B
Student B
Support person for Student B
Mr. Shawn Parkhurst, Superintendent of Windsor Locks Public School
Dr. Rebecca Bissonnette, Principal of Windsor Locks High School
Ms. Kirsten Krupa, Assistant Principal of Windsor Locks High School
Mrs. Denise Piotrowicz, Recording Secretary, Windsor Locks Board of Education

Witnesses were sworn in by Chairman Mr. Gragnolati.

V. Action Regarding Expulsion

Testimony regarding the offense and penalty phase was given by Mr. Shawn Parkhurst and Dr. Rebecca Bissonnette followed by questions from the Board of Education Members.

Board Recessed at 4:47 p.m.
Board Reconvened at 4:56 p.m.

Board Member Mr. Jim McGowan entered the meeting in-person at 4:56 p.m.

It was **MOVED** (Christianson) and **SECONDED** (McGowan) and **PASSED** (U) that the Board of Education terminates Executive Session and reconvenes into public session at 4:56 p.m.

It was **MOVED** (Christianson) and **SECONDED** (McGowan) and **PASSED** (U) that the finds that Student B did engage in conduct that violated Board Policy and seriously disruptive to the educational process. The student has therefore committed an expellable offense.

It was **MOVED** (McGowan) and **SECONDED** (Tria) and **PASSED** (U) that the Board of Education reconvenes in Executive Session to conduct a student expulsion hearing and to protect the confidential student records and that the same persons who were previously invited to attend the Executive Session are invited to attend at 4:58 p.m.

VI. Action Regarding Expulsion

Testimony regarding the penalty phase of the expulsion was given by Dr. Rebecca Bissonnette, Ms. Kirsten Krupa, Student B and Mother of Student B followed by questions from the Board of Education Members.

Board Recessed at 5:13 p.m.
Board Reconvened at 5:39 p.m.

It was **MOVED** (McGowan) and **SECONDED** (Tria) and **PASSED** (U) that the Board of Education terminates Executive Session and reconvenes into public session at 5:39 p.m.

It was **MOVED** (Christianson) and **SECONDED** (McGowan) and **PASSED** (3-1)(In Favor: K. Christianson, J. McGowan, D. Gragnolati; Opposed: J. Tria; Abstain: None) that the Windsor Locks Board of Education (1) accepts and adopts the findings and facts discussed and presented in executive session; and find that Student B is hereby expelled from the Windsor Locks Public Schools, including all school-related activities, curricular or otherwise, for a period of one calendar year and (2) that as a consequence of said conduct, Student B shall be expelled in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Administrations Recommendations dated October 24, 2023 as presented.

VII. Adjournment

It was **MOVED** (Christianson) and **SECONDED** (Tria) and **PASSED** (U) that the Board of Education adjourns the November 2, 2023 Special Meeting at 5:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise M. Piotrowicz
Recording Secretary