

PUTNAM COUNTY CUSD #535
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AGENDA
PUTNAM COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL - MEDIA CENTER
March 19, 2018
6:00 PM

“WHERE ALL STUDENTS WILL LEARN AND SUCCEED AND ALL MEANS **ALL**”

DISTRICT GOALS:

Demonstrate increased academic achievement for all students.

Improve communications among all stakeholders in the Putnam County School District and communities.

Maintain strong fiscal responsibility in the Putnam County School District.

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS STUDENT DISCIPLINE ISSUE 2
- IV. DISCIPLINE OF STUDENT 17181 (Action)
- V. ADJOURNMENT

Expulsion Hearing

Date_____

- Call the hearing/Board meeting to order.
- Welcome all attendees and explain how the hearing will be conducted. (Review the following steps).
- Opening statements can be made at this time by the administration and/or student/guardian representative.
- Administration will offer its evidence. (Building Principal). This should include a copy of the Board's discipline policy; relevant pages of the student handbook; a copy of the suspension notice; a copy of the expulsion hearing notice and proof of delivery for same; a copy of the signature page showing receipt by the student/guardian representative of the district's disciplinary procedures; and any other written evidence that administration may want to present supporting the charges against the student, including witness statements.
- Questions of the administration may be asked by the student/guardian representative or Board at this time. (Cross-examination).
- The student or guardian representative can make a statement at this time and present any relevant evidence to the Board. (Witnesses or anyone else present on his/her behalf).
- Questions of the student/guardian representative may be asked by administration or the Board at this time. (Cross-examination time).
- Both sides may provide a closing statement at this time. (Optional).
- Board deliberation (without building administration or student/guardian representative present).
- Student/guardian representative and building administration will be brought back into the hearing at this time to be notified whether the Board finds the student committed the acts of misconduct.
- If the Board determines the student committed the acts of misconduct, the hearing proceeds to the punishment phase.
- The administration should indicate the punishment that is recommended in this case, and the rationale for same.

- The student/guardian representative is allowed to respond to the recommended punishment.
- Board deliberation (without building administration or student/guardian representative present).
- Student/guardian representative and building administration will be brought into the hearing at this time to be notified of the level of punishment decided upon by the board.
- Board goes into open session to take action. (Student identified by number only).
- This concludes the hearing portion of the Board meeting.

Students

This policy becomes effective and replaces the current policy on *Expulsion Procedures* on the first student attendance day of the 2016-2017 school year.

Expulsion Procedures

The Superintendent or designee shall implement expulsion procedures that provide, at a minimum, for the following:

1. Before a student may be expelled, the student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be provided a written request to appear at a hearing to determine whether the student should be expelled. The request shall be sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested. The request shall:
 - a. Include the time, date, and place for the hearing.
 - b. Briefly describe what will happen during the hearing.
 - c. Detail the specific act of gross disobedience or misconduct resulting in the decision to recommend expulsion.
 - d. List the student's prior suspension(s).
 - e. State that the School Code allows the School Board to expel a student for a definite period of time not to exceed 2 calendar years, as determined on a case-by-case basis.
 - f. Ask that the student or parent(s)/guardian(s) or attorney inform the Superintendent or Board Attorney if the student will be represented by an attorney and, if so, the attorney's name and contact information.
2. Unless the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) indicate that they do not want a hearing or fail to appear at the designated time and place, the hearing will proceed. It shall be conducted by the Board or a hearing officer appointed by it. If a hearing officer is appointed, he or she shall report to the Board the evidence presented at the hearing and the Board shall take such final action as it finds appropriate. Whenever there is evidence that mental illness may be the cause for the recommended expulsion, the Superintendent or designee shall invite a representative from the Dept. of Human Services to consult with the Board.
3. During the expulsion hearing, the Board or hearing officer shall hear evidence concerning whether the student is guilty of the gross disobedience or misconduct as charged. School officials must provide: (1) testimony of any other interventions attempted and exhausted or of their determination that no other appropriate and available interventions were available for the student, and (2) evidence of the threat or disruption posed by the student. The student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) may be represented by counsel, offer evidence, present witnesses, cross-examine witnesses who testified, and otherwise present reasons why the student should not be expelled. After presentation of the evidence or receipt of the hearing officer's report, the Board shall decide the issue of guilt and take such action as it finds appropriate.
4. If the Board acts to expel the student, its written expulsion decision shall:
 - a. Detail the specific reason why removing the student from his or her learning environment is in the best interest of the school.
 - b. Provide a rationale for the specific duration of the recommended expulsion.

- c. Document how school officials determined that all behavioral and disciplinary interventions have been exhausted by specifying which interventions were attempted or whether school officials determined that no other appropriate and available interventions existed for the student.
 - d. Document how the student's continuing presence in school would (1) pose a threat to the safety of other students, staff, or members of the school community, or (2) substantially disrupt, impede, or interfere with the operation of the school.
5. Upon expulsion, the District may refer the student to appropriate and available support services.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6(a).
Goss v. Lopez, 95 S.Ct. 729 (1975).

CROSS REF.: 5:100 (Staff Development); 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:200 (Suspension Procedures), 7:230 (Misconduct by Students with Disabilities)

ADOPTED: April 18, 2016

3. Traveling to or from school or a school activity, function or event.
4. Anywhere if the conduct may reasonably be considered to be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member or student; the conduct may reasonably be considered to be an interference with school purposes or an educational function; or the student's presence at school may reasonably be considered to create an interference with school purposes or an educational function.

CRIMINAL ACTS

Any actions by a person that are a violation of the criminal statute of the State of Illinois will be subject to disciplinary action by the administration/school board. Referral to the police for appropriate legal action may also result from criminal acts. Disciplinary actions will include suspension and/or recommendation for expulsion from school. The following is a partial list of criminal acts, which may lead to the arrest and prosecution in the criminal courts. PCHS does participate in the mandated reciprocal reporting of criminal activity with the authorities.

Arson

The malicious, intentional attempt to burn any property.

Breaking and Entering

Breaking and entering is the forceful entry into the property of another student or into any portion of the school property.

Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment

Bullying, intimidation, and harassment diminish a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate. Preventing students from engaging in these disruptive behaviors and providing all students equal access to a safe, non-hostile learning environment are important school goals.

Bullying on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, immigration status, military status, unfavorable discharge status from the military service, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender-related identity or expression, ancestry, age, religion, physical or mental disability, order of protection status, status of being homeless, or actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy, association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics, or any other distinguishing characteristic is prohibited in each of the following situations:

1. During any school-sponsored education program or activity.
2. While in school, on school property, on school buses or other school vehicles, at designated school bus stops waiting for the school bus, or at school-sponsored or school-sanctioned events or activities.
3. Through the transmission of information from a school computer, a school computer network, or other similar electronic school equipment.
4. Through the transmission of information from a computer that is accessed at a nonschool-related location, activity, function, or program or from the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased, or used by the school district or school if the bullying causes a substantial disruption to the educational process or orderly operation of a school.

Bullying includes cyber-bullying (bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication) and means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student or students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

1. Placing the student or students in reasonable fear of harm to the student's or students' person or property;
2. Causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student's or students' physical or mental health;
3. Substantially interfering with the student's or students' academic performance; or
4. Substantially interfering with the student's or students' ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Examples of prohibited conduct include name-calling, using derogatory slurs, stalking, sexual violence, causing psychological harm, threatening or causing physical harm, threatened or actual destruction of property, or wearing or possessing items depicting or implying hatred or prejudice of one of the characteristics stated above.

Students are encouraged to immediately report bullying. A report may be made orally or in writing to the district complaint manager or any staff member with whom the student is comfortable speaking. Anyone, including staff members and parents/guardians, who has information about actual or threatened bullying is encouraged to report it to the district complaint manager or any staff member. Anonymous reports are also accepted by phone call or in writing.

Complaint Managers:

Clayton Theisinger, Principal
 Putnam County High School
 402 E Silverspoon Ave
 Granville, IL 61326
 (815)882-2800 ext. 4
 theisingerc@pcschoools535.org

Chris Newsome, Assistant Principal
 Putnam County High School
 402 E Silverspoon Ave
 Granville, IL 61326
 (815)882-2800 ext. 4
 newsomec@pcschoools535.org

A reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act of bullying is prohibited. A student's act of reprisal or retaliation will be treated as bullying for purposes of determining any consequences or other appropriate remedial actions.

A student will not be punished for reporting bullying or supplying information, even if the school's investigation concludes that no bullying occurred. However, knowingly making a false accusation or providing knowingly false information will be treated as bullying for purposes of determining any consequences or other appropriate remedial actions.

Students and parents/guardians are also encouraged to read the following school district policies: 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited* and 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation and Harassment*.²

Harassment of Students Prohibited

No person, including a District employee or agent, or student, shall harass, intimidate or bully another student based upon a student's race, color, nationality, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, age, religion, creed, physical or mental disability, gender identity, order of protection status, status of being homeless, or actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy, or other protected group status. The District will not tolerate harassing, intimidating conduct, or bullying whether verbal, physical, or visual, that affects the tangible benefits of education, that unreasonably interferes with a student's educational performance, or that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. Examples of prohibited conduct include name-calling, using derogatory slurs, causing psychological harm, threatening or causing physical harm, or wearing or possessing items depicting or implying hatred or prejudice of one of the characteristics stated above.

Complaints of harassment, intimidation or bullying are handled according to the provisions on sexual harassment below. The Superintendent shall use reasonable measures to inform staff members and students that the District will not tolerate harassment, intimidation or bullying by including this policy in the appropriate handbooks.

Sexual Harassment of Students Prohibited

Sexual harassment of students is prohibited. Any person, including a district employee or agent, or student, engages in sexual harassment whenever he or she makes sexual advances, requests sexual favors, and engages in other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual or sex-based nature, imposed on the basis of sex, that:

1. Denies or limits the provision of educational aid, benefits, services, or treatment; or that makes such conduct a condition of a student's academic status; or
2. Has the purpose or effect of:
 - a. Substantially interfering with a student's educational environment;
 - b. Creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment;
 - c. Depriving a student of educational aid, benefits, services, or treatment; or
 - d. Making submission to or rejection of such conduct the basis for academic decisions affecting a student.

The terms "intimidating," "hostile," and "offensive" include conduct that has the effect of humiliation, embarrassment, or discomfort. Examples of sexual harassment include touching, crude jokes or pictures, discussions of sexual experiences, teasing related to sexual characteristics, and spreading rumors related to a person's alleged sexual activities.

Students, who believe they are victims of sexual harassment or have witnessed sexual harassment, are encouraged to discuss the matter with the student Nondiscrimination coordinator, Building Principal, or a Complaint Manager. Students may choose to report to a person of the student's same sex. Complaints will be kept confidential to the extent possible given the need to investigate. Students who make good faith complaints will not be disciplined.

An allegation that one student was sexually harassed by another student shall be referred to the Building Principal, for appropriate action.

Intimidation or Harassment

All students are to be free to attend school without concern of threats or demands. Sexual harassment is a form of discrimination that violates the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, Title IX or the Educational Amendments of 1972, and most state constitutions. In its simplest terms, sexual harassment is deliberate and/or repeated sexual or sex based behavior that is not welcomed and is not asked for. It may be, but is not limited to: physical touching or interference with movement, verbal epithets, derogatory comments or slurs, and/or visual displays of derogatory cartoons, drawings, posters, or messages. In order to constitute sexual harassment the conduct must be unwelcome, undesirable or offensive to the harassed person, and not be solicited or incited by that person. Likewise general harassment refers to conduct which targets race, nationality, ethnicity, religion or disability. Harassment of, or threats to students, employees of the district, or the board of education on or off school grounds is not allowed. Any conduct, including teasing, bullying, and harassment directed against students which causes them to be fearful of attending school is not allowed. Any student who teases, bullies, or harasses another student will be subject to disciplinary action, which may include, but not be limited to, suspension or expulsion.

Cyber Harassment

Any communication or materials created outside of school, including internet messages, text messages, phone messages, that are discussed or brought into the school setting, or that substantially interfere with the educational process are subject to disciplinary action.

Fighting or Assault/Battery

Attempting to cause and/or causing injury to another student or staff member. Disputes between members of the school community should be settled through proper channels. Any student participating in a fight or assault may be suspended out of school, expelled or otherwise disciplined. Additionally, any student who incites encourages and/or instigates a fight between parties and is reported as doing so by a staff member may be suspended from school.

Explosives, Incendiaries, Firearms, Weapons, and Look-alikes

To bring any kind of explosive material or look alikes to school, whether they are intended to be exploded or not, is prohibited. The same is true for firearms, ammunition, knives, lasers, look alikes or any other weapons, whether concealed or not. No student will be in possession of any object, which could reasonably be considered as a potential hazard to another person or another person's safety. Any student, who uses, possesses, distributes, purchases, or sells an explosive or firearm or any object that can reasonably be considered a weapon will be recommended for expulsion for at least one calendar year. Under the terms of the school code, it is mandated that the recommendation for expulsion be for at least one year when a firearm, weapon, or explosive is involved in the misconduct. The board of education can expel a student for up to two years for any conduct that is in violation of the student code. On a case-by-case basis the Board may modify the length of suspension or expulsion. A student who is determined to have brought a weapon to school, any school sponsored activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school, shall be expelled for a period of not less than one full year, except that the expulsion may be modified. For the purpose of this section, the term "weapon" means the possession, use, control, or transfer of any weapons as defined by Section 921 of Title 18, United States Code, firearms as defined in Section 1.1 of the Firearm Owners Identification Act or use of a weapon defined in Section 24-1 of the Criminal Code; other objects if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm include but are not limited to, knives, guns, firearms, rifles, shotguns, brass knuckles, billy clubs or look alikes thereof. Such items as baseball bats, pipes, bottles, locks, sticks, pencils, and pens may be considered weapons if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm.

Fire Alarm and Firefighting Equipment

Setting off false alarms or tampering with fire fighting equipment is unlawful. Suspension and a possible recommendation for expulsion may result.

Gangs, Gang Activities and Unauthorized Organizations

The presence of gangs, gang activity, and gang related material causes a substantial disruption of the educational process. A gang is defined as any group of two or more persons whose purpose includes the commission of illegal acts, disruptive behavior and/or activities prohibited by law or by the school districts rules and regulations. The following rules have been enacted to prevent disruption and prevent gangs and gang activities by restricting the actions which foster such activities or which, because they are performed in relation to gang activity, endanger even those students who do not intend to show gang affiliation or membership. No student on or about school or at any school function:

- a. Shall wear, possess, use, distribute, display, or sell any clothing, jewelry, emblem, badge, sign, symbol, or other things that may be viewed as evidence of membership in a gang. This includes the wearing of coats and hats during the school day.
- b. Shall commit any act or omission, or use any speech, either verbal or nonverbal showing membership or gang affiliation.
- c. Shall use any speech or commit any act promoting the interests of any gang activity, not limited to:
*Soliciting others for membership in any gangs; *Requesting any person to pay protection or otherwise intimidating or threatening another person; *Committing any other illegal act or other violation of school district policies; *Inciting other students to act with physical violence upon any other person.

Any student who is first suspected of violating either paragraph a, b, or c of the above rules may be required, after being informed of the reasons why he/she is suspected of a violation and given the opportunity to state his/her version of the events, to surrender any material or thing or to take whatever steps necessary to rectify whatever is alleged to violate the policy. A conference may be required. Any material or thing surrendered by the student will be returned to the parent upon request. A refusal to surrender material or things or to rectify the violations can result in the student being suspended for insubordination. Any student who violates paragraphs a, b, or c will be subject to suspension and/or expulsion.

Body piercings representing gang affiliation are subject to a, b, and c of above. Body piercing is not always symbolic of gang affiliation; however, it may raise a concern regarding health and safety. Infections, injury to self and others are possible. These concerns and concern over obvious disruptions of the educational environment will be handled case by case as outlined above.

Gang and Gang Activity Prohibited

“Gang” is defined as any group, club or organization of two or more persons whose purposes include the commission of illegal acts. No student on or about school property or at any school activity or whenever the student’s conduct is reasonably related to a school activity, shall: (1) wear, possess, use, distribute, display, or sell any clothing, jewelry, paraphernalia or other items which reasonably could be regarded as gang symbols; commit any act or omission, or use either verbal or non-verbal gestures, or handshakes showing membership or affiliation in a gang; or (2) use any speech or commit any act or omission in furtherance of the interest of any gang or gang activity, including, but not limited to, soliciting others for membership in any gangs; (3) request any person to pay protection or otherwise intimidate, harass or threaten any person; (4) commit any other illegal act or other violation of district policies, (5) or incite other students to act with physical violence upon any other person.

Cellular Communication Devices and Electronic Paging Devices

Students may possess a cellular phone during the school day but it must be turned off and out of sight, except during their lunch period and 3 minute passing period. Students who use a cellular phone during the school day, or fail to keep it concealed, except during their lunch period, and passing period, will have the phone confiscated and returned at the end of the day. A second violation of this policy will result in an In-School suspension and a parent must pick the phone up. All subsequent violations will result in more severe consequences. Failure to give up their cell phone results in insubordination and the student leaves school.

Theft

Unauthorized removal or possession of students' or staffs' property or of school property will result in disciplinary action appropriate to the offense.

Trespassing

All visitors must register in the main office upon arrival. Students are not permitted in restricted areas. Students who are suspended or expelled are not permitted on school grounds during the suspension or expulsion.

Vandalism

Littering, defacement, or destruction of property belonging to students, staff, Board of Education, or District #535 will result in disciplinary action. Vandalism can include tampering with safety equipment.

Alcohol, Controlled Substances, and Look-alikes

The possession or use of tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, alcoholic beverages, drugs, drug paraphernalia, or look-alike substances, or being under the influence of same, is prohibited at any time, at any school in the school district. Except with respect to prescription drugs used by the person for whom such drugs were prescribed in the manner intended by the prescribing medical doctor, the possession, use, distribution, purchase, or sale of any alcoholic beverage, drug paraphernalia, controlled substance, look-alike, tobacco, or tobacco product is prohibited in school buildings, on school buses, and on all other school property or school related events at any time. For the purpose of this policy, look alike substances shall be defined as a substance which by dosage unit, appearance including color, shape, size, container and/or packaging, or markings, would lead a reasonable person to believe that the substance is a controlled substance, or is expressly or impliedly represented to be controlled substance or is distributed under circumstances which would lead a reasonable person to believe that the substance is a controlled substance. For the purpose of determining whether the representation made or the circumstances of the distribution would lead a reasonable person to believe the substance to be a controlled substance under this clause (2) of subsection (y) the court or other authority may consider the following factors in addition to any other factor that may be relevant:

- a. Statements made by the owner or person in control of the substance concerning its nature, use or effect;
- b. Statements made to the buyer or recipient that the substance may be resold for profit;
- c. Whether the substance is packaged in a manner normally used for the illegal distribution of controlled substances;
- d. Whether the distribution or attempted distribution included an exchange of or demand for money or other property as consideration, and whether the amount of the consideration was substantially greater than the reasonable retail market value of the substance.

This prohibition shall include all school sponsored or school related activities, whether held before or after school, evenings, or weekends. For purposes of this policy, students who are under the influence of prohibited substances shall be treated in the same manner as though they had prohibited substances in their possession. Any student who manufactures, sells, delivers, transfers, possesses, uses or is under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, marijuana, any controlled substance, look alike substance or related drug paraphernalia other than as prescribed by a physician, or any other intoxicating substance on school grounds, at any school sponsored event or any other occasion that the school shall have legitimate interest in regulating, shall be subject to disciplinary consequences including up to ten (10) days suspension from school and recommendation for expulsion.

Reasonable Suspicion-Based Testing

If a reasonable suspicion exists (based on specific, contemporaneous, articulable, observation) a school administrator may request a student submit to testing to determine if there are any prohibited substances in the student's system. Students who refuse to submit to testing will be suspended for possession and use. A positive test will result in suspension. In either case a recommendation for expulsion may occur. A portion of the suspension and or the recommendation may be held in abeyance during a probationary period during which the parents may choose to enter their child in a counseling program. The decision regarding this will be made by a certified district administrator.

Possession: Any student who is in possession of, or in control of, any alcohol, or other illegal or controlled substance. Possession is defined as to the student's person, clothing, supplies, locker, desk, automobile, or school property used for the storage of said substances.

Delivery/intent to deliver: Transfer of, possession or control of any prohibited substance, whether or not that substance is in that person's immediate possession. Delivery includes but is not limited to any gift, sale or exchange or other transfer with or without payment or other considerations. Penalties for violations of the above policy can range from suspension to an immediate recommendation for expulsion.

Paraphernalia: The possession, use, distribution, purchase, or sale of drug paraphernalia is prohibited. Examples of drug paraphernalia includes rolling papers, pipes, clips, needles, violation of this policy may result in the student being suspended or recommendation for expulsion.

Search and Seizure

In order to maintain order safety and security in the schools, school authorities are authorized to conduct reasonable searches of school property and equipment, as well as of students and their personal effects. "School authorities" includes school liaison police officers.

School authorities may inspect and search school property and equipment owned or controlled by the school (such as, lockers, desks, and parking lots), as well as personal effects left there by a student, without notice to or the consent of the student. Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in these places or areas or in their personal effects left there.

The building principal may request the assistance of law enforcement officials to conduct inspections and searches of lockers, desks, parking lots, and other school property and equipment for illegal drugs, weapons, or other illegal or dangerous substances or materials, including searches conducted through the use of specially trained dogs.

School authorities may search a student and/or the student's personal effects in the student's possession (such as, purses, wallets, knapsacks, book bags, lunch boxes, etc.) when there is a reasonable ground for suspecting that the search will produce evidence the particular student has violated or is violating either the law or the school or district's student rules and policies. The search will be conducted in a manner that is reasonably related to its objective of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the student's age and sex, and the nature of the infraction.

School officials may require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student's account on a social networking website that violates the school's disciplinary rules or school district policy. In the course of the investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order for the school to make a factual determination.

If a search produces evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the school or district's policies or rules, evidence may be seized and impounded by school authorities, and disciplinary action may be taken. When appropriate, evidence may be transferred to law enforcement authorities.

Access to Student Social Networking Passwords and Websites

School officials may conduct an investigation or require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student's account on a social networking website that violates a school disciplinary rule or policy. In the course of an investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order to allow school officials to make a factual determination.

Police Assistance

In situations where a student refuses to cooperate with school staff in the proper execution of their duties, or participates in conduct which is disorderly, or which also may be a violation of criminal laws, the local police department may be called upon to assist staff members.

STUDENT REGULATIONS

Leaving School Grounds without Permission

Putnam County High School has a closed campus. Once students arrive at school they are not permitted to leave until the conclusion of the school day without permission from the principal or the principal's designee. A student will be considered to have arrived at school once the student boards the school bus, is dropped off at school or an area adjacent to the school, or is the driver or passenger of a vehicle on school property, including the roadway surrounding the vicinity of the school. A student that is off campus without permission will be considered truant and additional consequences added for being off campus.

1st offense: in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension

2nd offense: in-school or out-of-school suspension

3rd offense and all subsequent offenses: Out-of-school suspension

In addition, students who leave campus driving a motor vehicle shall also face loss of driving privileges. Students driving a motor vehicle who also pick up other students that have arrived at school will face a loss of driving privileges.

School Property

If a student damages school property, the student will be charged for the repair or replacement of the property damaged. The student may also be subject to disciplinary action.



PUTNAM COUNTY
COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #535

March 12, 2018

Mrs. Terri Munson
8175 White Oak Road
Magnolia, IL 61336

VIA REGULAR MAIL
AND CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Re: Notice of Expulsion Hearing

Dear Mr. David Munson,

You are hereby notified that the Board of Education of Putnam County Community Unit School District #535 (the "District") has scheduled a hearing on Monday, March 19, 2018 at 6:00 PM in the District Office Conference Room, located at the Putnam County Primary School, 400 E. Silverspoon Avenue, Granville, IL 61326, to consider a recommendation for the expulsion of your student, Benjamin Munson, from the District through the end of the 2017-2018 school year and perhaps longer. Section 10-22.6 of *The School Code* provides the Board of Education with authority to expel students.

Your student is being recommended for expulsion by an authorized administrator for engaging in the following prohibited student conduct in violation of Board Policy 7:190, Student Behavior - Prohibited Student Conduct - Weapons, and of the discipline rules set out in the District Parent/Student Handbook:

1. "Engaging in any activity, on or off campus, that interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the school environment, school operations, or an educational function, including but not limited to, conduct that may reasonably be considered to: (a) be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member; or (b) endanger the health or safety of students, staff, or school property" (p. 20).

Dates of Consideration:

- i. February 23, 2018 - Benjamin told another student the following statement: "Don't make me hold you at gunpoint."
 1. Teacher spoke with Benjamin in regards to statement and identified that it is not a joking matter.
 2. Assistant Principal issued a detention and made contact with parent.
- ii. February 27, 2018 – Benjamin told another student that he was on his "list."
 1. Benjamin met with Principal, Parent, and local law enforcement. Counseling was provided to explain suspiciousness of statement.
 2. Benjamin's mother sought mental health evaluation.
 3. Benjamin provided reminders and guidance on rules pertaining to classroom behaviors.
 4. School social work services established to provide ongoing support.

2. Possession of “a knife, brass knuckles, or other knuckle weapon regardless of its composition, a billy club, or any other object if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm, including “look-alikes” of any firearm as defined above” (p. 42).

Dates of Consideration:

- i. March 6, 2018 – Benjamin had folding knife in his Chromebook case.
 1. Benjamin was issued 10 days of out-of-school suspension with recommendation for expulsion.

The hearing will be conducted by the Board of Education in closed session. We request that you appear before the School Board with your student at the time and place stated above for the expulsion hearing. You have the right to present witnesses and question any witnesses offered by the Administration and to make statements on behalf of your student. Your student may also attend and participate in the hearing. You have a right to have an attorney present at the hearing at your own expense. If you intend to bring an attorney to the hearing, you must notify me at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing. If you do not attend the hearing, the Board of Education will base its findings on the information presented by the Administration. The District's Expulsion Hearing Procedures are enclosed for your review.

If you have any questions regarding the hearing or the procedures involved, please contact me prior to the hearing to discuss such questions.

Sincerely,

Carl B. Carlson

Carl B. Carlson, Superintendent

Enc.: Expulsion Hearing Procedures

402 East Silverspoon Ave.
Granville, Ill. 61326



Office (815) 882-2800
Fax (815) 339-2628

Putnam County High School

March 7th, 2018

Putnam County CUSD #535 Board of Education:

The administration of Putnam County High School is recommending the expulsion of student Benjamin Munson for engaging in prohibited student conduct according to the student handbook, including:

1. “Engaging in any activity, on or off campus, that interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the school environment, school operations, or an educational function, including but not limited to, conduct that may reasonably be considered to: (a) be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member; or (b) endanger the health or safety of students, staff, or school property” (p. 20).
 - a. Dates of Consideration: October 31, 2017; February 23, 2018; February 27, 2018
2. Possession of “a knife, brass knuckles, or other knuckle weapon regardless of its composition, a billy club, or any other object if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm, including “look-alikes” of any firearm as defined above” (p. 42).
 - a. Dates of Consideration: March 6, 2018

All incidents related to the disruption of the school environment were thoroughly investigated in order to understand the contexts of comments made by the student and to provide due process rights. Discipline was issued on an escalating basis and communication was made with the student’s parent for all incidents. Social work supports and mental health solutions were also sought for incidents. Local law enforcement was involved in matters related to the most recent disruptions and possession of a weapon.

Sincerely,

Mr. Clayton J. Theisinger
Principal

Mr. Christopher Newsome
Assistant Principal