

W-A-Y Academy Detroit
(Widening Advancements for Youth)
8701 W. Vernor, Detroit, MI 48209
**Note: March 2, 2020, Special Meeting will be held at
West Campus, 19321 West Chicago Rd., Detroit, MI 48228**

Board of Directors' Special Meeting
March 2, 2020
6:00 p.m.

Minutes

I. Call to Order by the President at 6:00 pm

Roll Call:

Murray X

Chavez-Wazeerud-Din X

Torres X

Flanagan X

Moesner X

II. Approval of Agenda

Motion made to approve the March 2, 2020 Special Meeting Agenda as presented by Sheila Flanagan/Seconded by Laura Chavez. All members voted with Aye. There were none opposed. Passed unanimously.

III. Call to the Public

This meeting is a meeting of the Board of W-A-Y Academy in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. We now invite members of the public to address the Board and share any thoughts or concerns regarding agenda items only.

Parent present for meeting requested clarification on why they were was attending a board meeting. Board President Michael Murray provided clarification to the parent.

IV. New Business

Discussion Items:

1. Student Expulsion Hearing (Student 4566474085)

Board President Michael Murray indicated the school would present first and then would allow the parent(s) an opportunity to speak.

Superintendent Madeline Black presented on behalf of WAY Academy West and shared that she is presenting this student information with a heavy heart. Ms. Black indicated the parent(s) present are very involved with their students. Mr. Hyman (Director of WAY Academy West Campus) thanked the parents for their support and shared the rationale for today's meeting. Mr. Hyman indicated the meeting was called to address a terrorist threat made by the student in question, which was reported. The report consisted of a classroom conversation around the student shooting up the school. Upon receipt of the report, we contacted the parents and furthered the investigation of the threat. Upon investigation, it was reported that the student in question had said this in a joking manner, however, the school needed to follow the board procedures/policies and address the threat. Ms. Black shared there have been additional write ups on the student in question throughout the year as well. There also had been a previous incident reported involving the student in question. The first time this matter was presented/reported, the student gave his case and now it has occurred a 2nd time and we have to address the situation and follow the board procedures/policies pertaining to threats.

Board Member Sheila Board asked if parent(s) had been contacted? The parents indicated they had not been.

Board Member Renee Torres asked if the first incident had been documented by the teacher? Mr. Hyman indicated that it had been documented. Mr. Hyman also clarified the student in question was spoken to as well. Board President Michael Murray asked if parents were brought into the school to discuss? Mr. Hyman indicated they were not brought into the school, however, they were contacted by phone.

Board Member Renee Torres asked if it was witness by others? Mr. Hyman indicated it was said out loud by the student in question and witnessed by a teacher.

Board Member Laura Chavez asked if there was an action plan established after the 1st occurrence? Mr. Hyman indicated there was a conversation around this.

Superintendent Madeline shared various incident reports on the student in question with the board and parent(s).

Board Member Renee Torres asked if there were more students involved? Madeline Black indicated there were no other students involved.

Board Member Renee Torres asked when was the first occurrence reported? Madeline Black indicated the first occurrence was reported on January 29, 2020.

Board President Michael Murray asked for the school recommendation – Superintendent Black indicated they were recommending a 180-day expulsion, however, we could offer virtual instruction to the student in question. Ms. Black noted there was a prior issue with the student in question cheating and we'd have to watch this. Board Member Renee Torres asked if parent(s) were notified of the cheating and Mr. Hyman indicated they had been notified. Parent(s) asked for date they were notified? Mr. Hyman provided this information to the parent(s). Board Member Renee Torres asked if there were cheating situations prior to January 29th? Mr. Hyman indicated there have been prior occurrences to January 29th.

Parent(s) were provided an opportunity to share information with the board. Grandparent indicated when they were contacted, they were informed that it was a "rumor" that the student in question was cheating.

Grandparent shared additional concerns around plagiarism. Parent shared information with board which showed dates that the parent had conversation with the school.

Parent asked Mr. Hyman if incidents are heresay or witnessed by someone? Another parent indicated the school says they are witnessed by a teacher. Parent asked Superintendent Madeline Black to read the letter that the parent had shared with the board. Parent asked if they can obtain a copy of the student write ups. Ms. Black indicated she would provide the parent with copies of the write ups.

Board President Michael Murray asked parent(s) about assurances they can provide to the board that would ensure something like this wouldn't happen again with the student? Parent indicated they are committed and truthful to the school. Parent also indicated the student in question came to the school with an IEP and at that time he received help with behavior. Further down the line, the school indicated the student in question was doing better so they cancelled the student's IEP, noting, if the student came to a point where they needed additional help, the parent would want to reinstate the IEP services. Parent shared they have been committed to ensuring that all students/staff are safe. Parent(s) indicated they would like more communication from the school. Parent cited text message from Madeline Black indicating a need to meet regarding student IEP services. Parent(s) indicated expulsion is too harsh. Board President Michael Murray inquired if the student was getting social work services. Parent indicated they would have gotten the student in question social work services if needed, however, was waiting for school to contact them as to if the student in question was having behavior issues. Grandparent shared additional concerns that they have with the expulsion recommendation. Grandparent indicated the student in question had previously informed Mr. Hyman of suicide threat, however, parent was informed by the school that the student in question was joking. Board President Michael Murray noted that the board takes a student threatening suicide seriously as well. Grandparent shared that the school has let the student in question down by not sharing prior writeup with the family as they are just finding out there are multiple write ups.

Board Member Sheila Flanagan asked the student in question what is their favorite subject in school? Student in question indicated that it's Language Arts.

Board Member Sheila Flanagan asked the student in question if they have found WAY Academy to be helpful for them? Student in question indicated that it's been helpful over time.

Board Member Renee Torres asked the student in question if there are there areas/subjects that you struggle with? Student in question said yes, Science.

Board President Michael Murray shared the board's appreciation to the parents for coming to the meeting and will ensure that parents will obtain future write ups. Mr. Murray informed the parents that Superintendent Black would contact the parents with the board's decision very quickly.

Parent indicated for future they'd like better communication with the parents and share the parent handbook with parents. Parent indicated they pulled one off the website and it had not been updated.

Board Member Laura Chavez asked the student in question what do they want? Student in question indicated they would want to stay with WAY Academy as they are hoping to graduate by December 2020.

Board Member Patricia Moesner asked the student in question if they are motivated to stay out of trouble and stay on track, and how will you stay on track? Student in question said they wants to do their work and get out of school.

Board had conversation around the consequential choices for the student. Mr. Hyman shared on the disciplinary processes within the school. Board had additional conversation around allowing the student to attend virtual, as well as, have social work services provided to the student. Board asked Mr. Hyman how motivated the student is? Mr. Hyman shared the student is now starting to get the work done along with some interventions. Mr. Hyman also shared we still need to review the work the student is submitting to verify that it's actually the students work.

Board was very pleased to see the family support of the student who attended the meeting. Board held conversation on student accountability.

Superintendent Madeline Black will share the parent letter showing outcome with of this meeting with the board prior to sending to parents. The letter will state student requirements which were discussed at this meeting.

Action Items:

Motion made for student to attend virtual school for 180 days as discussed by Renee Torres/seconded by Laura Chavez. All members voted with Aye. There were none opposed. Passed unanimously.

V. Announcements:

Next Regularly Scheduled Board meeting will be: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at W-A-Y Academy Detroit, West Campus, 19321 W. Chicago, Detroit, MI. 48228

Swear in of Patricia Moesner – Oath of Office Administered/Signed by Notary

VI. Call to the Public

This meeting is a meeting of the Board of W-A-Y Academy in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. We now invite members of the public to address the Board and s share any thoughts or concerns. Comments should only be addressed to the person chairing this meeting, and per Board policy should be no longer than three minutes.

VII. Adjournment at 7:02 pm

Motion made to adjourn at 7:02 pm by Laura Chavez/Seconded by Sheila Flanagan. All members voted with Aye. There were none opposed. Passed unanimously.

Minutes of all Board of Director's meetings are available after approval by the Board and will be posted on the W-A-Y Academy website, www.wayprogram.net. Public notice of this meeting was posted as required by the Open Meetings Act.

Minutes Certification:

Approved minutes of March 2, 2020 Special meeting respectfully submitted,

Sheila Flanagan

Board Secretary

03/26/2020

Date

Signature Certificate

Document Ref.: TP2WS-20J55-7G9WG-PUUTE

Document signed by:

	<p>Sheila Flanagan Verified E-mail: sheilamflanagan@yahoo.com</p> <p>196.206.47.96 26 Mar 2020 22:50:23 UTC</p>	<p><i>Sheila Flanagan</i></p> 
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