

MINUTES  
APPRENTICE ACADEMY CAMPUS  
Called Special Session Board Meeting - Student Discipline Appeal

Monday October 26, 2023, at 7:00 pm  
Apprentice Academy Campus

Board Members	John Jedra	Board Chair	<a href="mailto:John.Jedra@aacampus.org">John.Jedra@aacampus.org</a>
	Sharon Ross	Board Vice Chair	<a href="mailto:Sharon.Ross@aacampus.org">Sharon.Ross@aacampus.org</a>
	James Warner	Secretary	<a href="mailto:JWarner@aacampus.org">JWarner@aacampus.org</a>
	Richard Baker	Board Member	<a href="mailto:Richard.Baker@aacampus.org">Richard.Baker@aacampus.org</a>
	Gary Summerfield	Board Member	<a href="mailto:Gary.Summerfield@aacampus.org">Gary.Summerfield@aacampus.org</a>
	Helen Gutshall	Board Member	

Attendance: \_ JJ, SR, JW, GS, HG  
Excused Absence \_ RB

Meeting Called to Order via Zoom by Chairman: John Jedra 7:03 PM

Facts and Findings:

- 1.) Discussed a situation regarding a student that had be issued a long term suspension and permanent exclusion for bringing drugs on campus and distributing them to another student. We were informed that the student was observed by Assistant Principal Deese with a cigarette vape on campus and also was observed passing it to another student. We further understand that the vape contained cannabis further classifying it as a drug.
- 2.) We understand that the school's policy for bringing drugs on campus is a long-term suspension and further for distributing drugs on campus the policy is a permanent suspension which were so issued.
- 3.) We further understand that the student to whom the vape was shared received, per school policy, a long term suspension but no permanent exclusion.
- 4.) The meeting was called in response to an appeal by the student's Grandparents/Adoptive Parents (Enclosed on Page 2)
- 5.) After discussion of the Facts the board decided to alter the disciplinary actions by the school staff. A motion was made by Sharon Ross, Board Vice Chair, as follows:  
  
"The student's permanent exclusion and long-term suspension are be reduced to a long-term suspension the length of which is not to exceed the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the School's Spring Semester (January 2, 2024)"  
  
Further: "The student, to whom the vape was shared is to, likewise, have their long-term suspension reduced to not exceed the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the School's Spring Semester (January 2, 2024)."  
  
1<sup>st</sup>: Gary Summerfield, 2<sup>nd</sup> Helen Gutshall, Passed Unanimously
- 6.) The board further advised the student's guardians to carry on with his counseling and that another infraction such as this will not be treated lightly.

Adjourn – 7:25 PM

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Email Letter from Student's Grandparents/Adoptive Parents:

18 October 2023

Dear Mr. Jedra,

We are writing to you on behalf of our son, Jacob Seven Wojtowicz who was first suspended, then expelled Tuesday evening October 17th. Jacob committed an extremely serious offense by bringing drugs to school that day. He knows how serious it was and is sorry and is asking for another chance to prove that he will never do anything like that again.

Jacob has not liked school for several years but loves going to AA and is thriving there. He has made some good friends and is well liked by his teachers. They were all very positive about him when we met them at the open house. Mr. Deese has been very kind and helpful during this most devastating situation and we know it wasn't easy to deliver this news to us.

We are Jacob's grandparents and adopted him when he was 4 years old after his dad, our son, drowned. We have brought him up in a Christian home and have given him stability since his birth mom was not capable of raising him. Jacob is a very thoughtful and kind person even though he has ADHD and anxiety and sometimes gets stressed in certain situations.

We beseech you and your board to please consider reinstating Jacob to AA. We have found a counselor for him and are looking into programs to help him understand why he would give in to peer pressure and have drugs at school. He is willing to live with a long term suspension as long as he can keep up with his school work and prove that he is taking responsibility for his actions.

We are requesting a hearing with you and the board as soon as possible to consider our appeal and not let this terrible decision negatively impact the rest of his life.

Sincerely,

Jim and Laurie Wojtowicz

914 474 4072