

Approved in Open Board Meeting June 15, 2016

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

April 12, 2016  
Tuesday, 9:00 a.m.

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

The School Board of Broward County, Florida, met in special session at 9:21 a.m., Tuesday, April 12, 2016, in the Board Room of the Kathleen C. Wright Administrative Center, 600 Southeast Third Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Present were: School Board Members Dr. Rosalind Osgood, Chair; Abby M. Freedman, Vice Chair; Robin Bartleman; Heather Brinkworth; Patricia Good; Donna P. Korn; Laurie Rich Levinson (absent); Ann Murray (absent); Nora Rupert; Robert W. Runcie, Superintendent of Schools; and Barbara J. Myrick, Esq.

**Call to Order** The Call to Order was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**Added/Changed Items** The Superintendent requested that the Board permit the following change to the agenda:

- **Additional Information** - 1. Broward County School Board vs. Danielle Arnold

The Chair approved the changes and announced the changes to the Agenda proposed by the Superintendent were accepted by the Chair after being determined that good cause had been established for said changes.

**Close Agenda** Upon motion by Ms. Korn, seconded by Mrs. Bartleman and carried, the Agenda was approved and declared closed. Mrs. Rich Levinson, Ms. Murray, and Mrs. Rupert were absent for the vote. (6-0 vote)

**Purpose of Meeting** For The School Board of Broward County, Florida to consider the Recommended Order rendered by the Administrative Law Judge in the matter of The School Board of Broward County, Florida, vs. Danielle Arnold, and any other items the Board deems necessary.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **Broward County School Board vs. Danielle Arnold** (Final Order)  
Motion was made by Ms. Korn, seconded by Mrs. Brinkworth and carried, to consider (1) Consider the Recommended Order, rendered on December 10, 2015, by Mary Li Creasy, Administrative Law Judge, in the matter of Broward County School Board vs. Danielle Arnold, Case No. 14-1898TTS, before the State of Florida Division of Administrative Hearings; (2) Rule upon Petitioner's Exceptions to the Recommended Order and Respondent's Response thereto; and (3) Render a final order based upon the actions in numbers (1) and (2) above.

In April 2014, The School Board approved the recommendation from the Superintendent of Schools to suspend Ms. Danielle Arnold, a teacher, for ten days. The legal basis for her suspension was misconduct in office and willful neglect of duty. Ms. Arnold challenged The School Board's action and requested an administrative hearing before the State of Florida Division of Administrative Hearings.

Following the administrative hearing, the Administrative Law Judge issued a Recommended Order, recommending that The School Board enter a final order finding that no "just cause" exists to discipline respondent.

The School Board, by and through the Superintendent and his cadre counsel, filed Exceptions to the Recommended Order. The Respondent, by and through her counsel, filed a response to the Exceptions.

The School Board of Broward County Florida must take final agency action by rendering a final order after considering the Recommended Order, ruling upon Petitioner's Exceptions and the Respondent's Response to Petitioner's Exceptions.

The Record contains confidential information and has not been redacted. Accordingly, it has been provided under separate cover.

The potential financial impact to the District is payment of salary to the Respondent for the ten days of suspension served in 2014.

Motion to Accept Petitioner's Exception III(B), Paragraphs 17, 21, 22, 26, 29  
(Carried)

Motion was made by Mrs. Good, seconded by Mrs. Rupert and carried to accept the Petitioner's Exception III(B), Paragraphs 17, 21, 22, 26, 29. Mrs. Rich Levinson and Ms. Murray were absent. (7-0 vote)

Motion to Accept Petitioner's Exception III(C), Paragraphs 17, 26, 29-34  
(Carried)

Motion was made by Mrs. Good, seconded by Mrs. Rupert and carried to accept the Petitioner's Exception III(C), Paragraphs 17, 26, 29-34. Mrs. Rich Levinson and Ms. Murray were absent. (7-0 vote)

Motion to Accept Petitioner's Exception III(D), Recommended Penalty as Amended  
(Carried)

Motion was made by Mrs. Rupert, seconded by Mrs. Good and carried, to amend language in the Broward County School Board vs. Danielle Arnold, DOAH Case No. 14-1898TTS, Petitioner's Suggested Rulings on Exceptions III(D), Recommended Penalty, to read:

"I move that The School Board, after review of the entire record, ACCEPT Petitioner's Exception III(D) and conclude that just cause exists to suspend Respondent for ~~ten (10) days~~ seven (7) days for all of the reasons set forth in Petitioner's exceptions, as well as the following citations to the record:"  
Mrs. Rich Levinson and Ms. Murray were absent. Mrs. Freedman and Dr. Osgood voted no. (5-2 vote)

This case was video-recorded by Broward Educational Communications Network (BECON) and a certified court reporter was also present.

The Board had completed its obligations and a Final Order would be prepared for the Chair's signature, based upon the Board's ruling.

**Adjournment** This meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

/dvn