

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF  
SENECA TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL, DISTRICT 160, SENECA, IL

A Special Meeting of the Seneca Township High School Board of Education was held on September 19, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. President Frye called the meeting to order with roll call.

- A. ROLL CALL: Present: Johnson, Hamilton, Frye, Olson, Victor, Eltrevoog, Yandell

Others present: Superintendent Jim Carlson, Principal Marty Voiles, Assistant Principal Michael Coughlin, Recording Secretary Nadine Maierhofer and Mrs. Matt Varland. Matt Varland arrived at 5:40 PM.

- B. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

- C. HEARING TO BAN COMMUNITY MEMBER FROM DISTRICT PROPERTY AND SENECA HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS

The incident under review took place on Friday, August 31, 2018 at the Gould Stadium in Ottawa, Illinois at a football game between Marquette High School and Seneca High School. Mr. Matt Varland was a spectator sitting in the visitor's section that is Seneca's section. An incident took place involving Mr. Varland, which led to his ejection by the Seneca High School Administration and Marquette Security.

President Frye summarized: *This is a hearing to consider the administration's recommendation for disciplinary action against Mr. Varland as previously discussed. This is not a court of law so we will not operate in the exact same manner as a trial court. We will, however, use a similar procedure. Beginning with the administration, each side may make an opening statement. The administration will then present its case including calling witnesses and presenting evidence. Mr. Varland will be afforded the same opportunity. Both the administration and Mr. Varland will be allowed to make a closing statement and then the Board will adjourn into Executive Session to deliberate. The Board will return from Executive session to give their ruling.*

The Board heard from Dr. Carlson, representing the district, as how the evening played out at Marquette High School on Friday, August 31, 2018. He provided the Board and Mrs. Varland with an 18-page packet. Exhibits 1-8, listed the evidence of due process, including three letters sent to Mr. Varland notifying him of the time, date, and location of the hearing, the charges against him, and his right to waive the hearing. Dr. Carlson also stated that Board Policy 8:30 ***Visitors to and Conduct on School Property*** allows the Board to ban individuals for up to 1 calendar year. Exhibits 9-14 were all eyewitness statements from

various school representatives. Exhibit 12 was Dr. Carlson's own personal statement of the events that took place on Friday, August 31, 2018.

The Board then heard from Mrs. Matt Varland, who represented her husband/family. Mrs. Varland read from a multiple-page prepared statement. She mentioned she questioned her stepson, "did your dad use profanity?" She claimed that her step-son knew nothing of what happened with security, and once questioned if he heard his father yelling profanity at the team she said he had said "no." She then referred to a "plain clothes man" that was provoking her husband. There was another parent yelling profanity at the team and coach, the coach did tum around, the man yelling was at the top of the stands. Nobody said or did anything about them. She continued on with various other incidents that happened at other games/events not pertaining to this particular hearing. She claims that banning a parent from any school/school events hurts nobody but the student(s).

Closing statements made by Dr. Carlson and Mrs. Varland.

Dr. Carlson stated that banning a parent is not something to take lightly; however, Mr. Varland's behavior didn't just violate Board Policy, it obliterated it. His behavior is everything we teach our students to not be. His recommendation was to suspend Mr. Varland for one school year effective 9/20/2018 to 9/20/2019.

Mrs. Varland just stated she does not recall any of the things mentioned by Dr. Carlson actually happening.

E. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO BAN COMMUNITY MEMBER FROM DISTRICT PROPERTY AND SENECA HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS

A motion was made by Joe Johnson and seconded by Cory Yandell, to adjourn to Executive Session, including Administration (Dr. Carlson did not adjourn into executive session with the Board and other administrators), to discuss the banning of a community member from district property and Seneca High School events.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Johnson, Olson, Victor, Yandell, Eltrevoog, Frye, Hamilton  
Absent:  
Nays:  
Motion Carried

President Frye asked for a motion to adjourn Executive Session.

A motion was made by Joe Johnson and seconded by Mark Victor to end the Executive Session.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Johnson, Olson, Victor, Yandell, Eltrevoog, Frye, Hamilton  
Absent:

Nays:  
Motion Carried

F. ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Frye asked for a motion to ban Mr. Matt Varland from all Seneca High School property and all Seneca High School events, both home and away, for a period of one calendar year beginning September 20, 2018, and ending on September 20, 2019.

A motion was made by Joe Johnson and seconded by Mark Victor to ban Mr. Matt Varland from all Seneca High School property and all Seneca High School events, both home and away, for a period of one calendar year beginning September 20, 2018, and ending on September 20, 2019.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Johnson, Olson, Victor, Yandell, Eltrevoog, Frye, Hamilton  
Absent:  
Nays:  
Motion Carried

G. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

  
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President, Board of Education

10-17-18  
Date

  
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Secretary, Board of Education