

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
STATE OF GEORGIA

LATASHA J.,	:	
	:	
Appellant,	:	
	:	CASE NO. 1993-3
v.	:	
	:	DECISION
TERRELL COUNTY	:	
	:	
BOARD OF EDUCATION,	:	
	:	
Appellee.	:	

This is an appeal by the parent of Latasha J. (“Student”) from a November 23, 1992, decision by the Terrell County Board of Education (“Local Board”) to suspend the Student for the remainder of the 1992-1993 school year because she cut another student with a single-edged razor during a fight on school grounds. The Student’s parent appeals on the ground the punishment is excessive. The Local Board’s decision is sustained.

“A local board of education ... is charged with the responsibility of managing the operation of its schools, and, in matters of discipline, the State Board of Education cannot substitute its judgment for the judgment of the local board. See, Boney v. County Board of Education of Telfair County, 203 Ga. 152 (1947); Braceley v. Burke County Bd. of Ed., Case No. 1978-7.” Joseph M. v. Jasper Cnty. Bd. of Educ., Case No. 1981-40 (SBE, 2/11/82).

The Student admitted that she was involved in a fight with another student and had cut the other student’s face or neck with a single-edged razor blade. The Local Board has policies that prohibit the possession of weapons and dangerous instruments on campus and causing or attempting to cause physical injury to another student. Notwithstanding evidence that the other

student started the fight, there was clear evidence that the Student violated the Local Board's policies.

Based upon the foregoing, the State Board of Education is of the opinion that the Local Board acted within its scope of authority in suspending the Student for the remainder of the 1992-1993 school year. The Local Board's decision, therefore, is

SUSTAINED.

This 11th day of March, 1993.

Mr. Sears and Mr. Sessoms were not present.

Robert M. Brinson
Vice Chairman for Appeals