

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

STATE OF GEORGIA

G.G.,

Appellant,

vs.

**MUSCOGEE COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION,**

Appellee.

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CASE NO. 1999-18

DECISION

This is an appeal by G. G. (Student) from a decision by the Muscogee County Board of Education (Local Board) to expel him from regular school during the remainder of the 1998-1999 school year with the opportunity to complete his education in an alternative school after finding him guilty of possessing a knife on school property. The Student claims that the decision is too harsh. The Local Board's decision is sustained.

On February 4, 1999, the Student's art teacher noticed him cutting some poster board with a knife that she had not provided. The Student claimed that he found the knife in the art room and thought that the teacher had provided it. A student disciplinary tribunal found him guilty of having a knife on campus and expelled him for the remainder of the 1998-1999 school year. When the Student appealed to the Local Board, the Local Board allowed him to attend alternative school because he had not been involved in any other incidents during his twelve years in school.

The Student appealed to the State Board of Education and claims that the punishment was too harsh. "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 judgement for the judgement of the local board. *See, Boney v. County Board of Education of Telfair County*, 203 Ga. 152, 45, S. E. 2d 442 (1947); *Braceley v. Burke County Bd. of Ed.*, Case No. 1978-7." *Joseph M. v. Jasper Cnty. Bd. of Educ.*, Case No. 1981-40 (Ga. SBE, Feb. 11, 1982). The Student has not shown that there was any error in the Local Board's decision.

Based upon the foregoing, it is the opinion of the State Board of Education that the Local Board's acted within its authority, Accordingly, the Local Board's decision is **SUSTAINED.**

This 10th day of June, 1999.

Otis Brumby
Chairperson