

School District of Benton Board of Education
Special Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2025
6:00 p.m.

41 Alma Street
Benton, Wisconsin 53803

In attendance: Board Angela Davis, Megan Flatley, Amanda Williams, Joe Lukaszewski, Ryan Kern, Jeff Richardson

Others: Attorney Brian Goodman for the Board

Administration: Todd Bastian (District Administrator); Lisa Lawrence (Principal)

Family: None

- I. Call to Order at 6:00 PM.
 - a. Roll Call
- II. Notice of Meeting
 - a. Proof of giving public notice (Personal notice sent to each Board Member, public notice to the Tri-County Press, Benton Post Office, and Benton School District) June 16, 2025.
- III Action Items

Proposed Closed Session - Motion made by Flatley; 2nd by Richardson to go into closed session at 6:01 PM, to go into closed session under Sections 19.85(1)(a) and 19.85(1)(f) of Wisconsin Statutes. Sections 19.85(1)(a) and 19.85(1)(f) allow a meeting to be closed to the public when a government body is going to deliberate concerning a case which was the subject of any judicial or quasi-judicial trial or hearing before that governmental body, or when a governmental body considers medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, or the investigation of charges against specific persons, which, if discussed in public would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data or involved in such problems or investigations.

The purpose of the closed meeting is to conduct an expulsion hearing for a student in accordance with Section 120.13(1)(c) of the Wisconsin Statutes and to review and discuss pupil records, as defined in Section 118.125 of the Wisconsin Statutes. It is anticipated that the Board will conduct the hearing, deliberate, and then vote on the expulsion during the closed session.

Roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Closed session begins for Expulsion Hearing of KayDance Pruitt:

- i. Start recorder
- ii. Briefly go over procedures.
- iii. Swear in all witnesses. District Administrator.

- iv. Ask if any board member feels that they cannot be impartial. No concerns raised by board members.
- v. Administration presents case. District Administrator testified and presented exhibits that supported the conduct in the notice of expulsion, that supported that Student knowingly engaged in conduct while at school or while under the supervision of a school authority which endangered the property, health, or safety of others, repeatedly refused and neglected to obey the rules, and that the interests of the district demand expulsion. District Administrator explained that notice of the hearing was sent to Student and her mother. District Administrator spoke to the Student's mother who indicated that the mother would not be coming to the hearing. District Administrator also presented applicable Board policies.
- vi. Opportunity for questions from the Board. Board declined the opportunity for questions.
- vii. Administrative Recommendation and Record Review. District Administrator went through the administration's recommendation, and briefly went over Student's attendance, and discipline record.
- viii. Board members asked a few questions regarding the recommendation.
- ix. Admit all exhibits into evidence.
- x. Administration leaves. Board deliberates.

Following discussion, a Motion was made by Kern; seconded by Williams, for the Board of Education to make the following Findings and Order:

1. THAT KayDance Pruitt is presently an 11th grade student at the School District of Benton.
2. THAT KayDance Pruitt knowingly engaged in the following conduct alleged in the Notice of Pupil Expulsion:

On April 30, 2025, at approximately 12:30 PM, a vape device fell out of KayDance's pocket in the High School Cafeteria. Mr. Ihm confiscated the device and gave it to Ms. Lawrence. Ms. Lawrence turned the device over to the Benton Police Department. The Police Department confirmed that the vape contained THC.

On Thursday, May 29, 2025, at approximately 9:49 AM, KayDance had a vape device in her possession while she was in Ms. Lawrence's office. The vape device was confiscated by Detective Paul Klang of the Lafayette County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office confirmed that the vape contained THC.

3. THAT KayDance Pruitt thereby knowingly engaged in the conduct while at school or while under the supervision of a school authority which endangered the property, health, or safety of others and repeatedly refused and neglected to obey the rules.
4. THAT the Board is satisfied that the interest of the school demands KayDance Pruitt's expulsion from school.

I further move that based upon the above findings, the Board of Education for the School District of Benton hereby orders that KayDance Pruitt is expelled from all classrooms, school-related activities, and all the School District of Benton premises immediately until her 21st birthday.

A vote was taken and the motion passed. The vote was unanimous.

V. Reconvene in Open Session.

Motion to reconvene in Open Session at 6:25 PM made by Lukaszewski, second by Flatley. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Motion to adjourn at 6:26 PM made by Kern, second by Richardson. Motion carried unanimously.