

November 8, 2007

**WEST HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**AGENDA ITEM:** Hearing Officer Report and Recommendation

**MEETING DATE:** November 8, 2007

**FROM:** Mr. Tim Dunn, Assistant Superintendent for Administration

**THROUGH:** David P. Sklarz, Superintendent

**RECOMMENDATION:** THAT the Board of Education selects one of the four options listed below concerning the student expulsion hearing process.

- Option 1. Maintain the current practice of the utilization of the hearing officer. Currently a Board panel conducts one in three of the hearings.
- Option 2. A panel of Board members will conduct the first hearing of each month. The hearing officer will be responsible for all others that month.
- Option 3. The impartial hearing officer will conduct all student expulsion hearings.
- Option 4. A panel of Board members will conduct all student expulsion hearings

**BACKGROUND:** At the Board of Education meeting of October 2, 2007 a discussion was held concerning the use of an impartial hearing officer for student expulsion hearings. Information was shared regarding this practice that has been utilized since April of 2004. It was recommended that the administration review this matter further and provide recommendations on the continued utilization of the hearing officer.

When the Board of Education approved the use of a hearing officer it was recommended that 1 in 3 hearings be conducted by the Board members, with the remainder conducted by the hearing officer. The Board has heard approximately 35% of all expulsions.

The use of the hearing officer has provided the timely scheduling of hearings and consistency in recommended actions. Hearings conducted by a panel of the Board allow for Board members to gain insight into school issues and a perspective on school discipline measures.

**AGENDA ITEM:  
IV. A.**