



EXPULSION HEARING FOR STUDENTS INVOLVED IN BEATING

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REGION - School Superintendent Thomas Pandiscio has asked the school committee to expel the two Wachusett Regional High School students involved in the April 14 after-school beating of two 16-year-old students, captured on cell phone and seen by viewers around the country.



The incident took place off-campus on nearby Sunnyside Avenue, when a "scheduled" fight between two students escalated into a beating after one of the participants called in reinforcements from Worcester - one armed with a lead pipe.



About a dozen or more WRHS students were bystanders, but none called police. One used his camera to video the attack. He e-mailed the recording to the Holden Police Department and also posted it on the Internet. The incident received national publicity.



One 17-year-old and three minors were arraigned over the next several days in Worcester Superior Court on various assault charges.



Wachusett Regional School District Committee Chair Margaret Watson announced at Monday's school committee meeting that a special meeting has been called for 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 6, at Davis Hill School, to consider Pandiscio's recommendation. School Counsel Leo P. McCabe confirms that the final decision to exclude a student from the Wachusett District rests with the school committee.

"The meeting may or may not be public," said Watson. "It's their [the students'] choice."

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