

BEFORE THE  
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of:

PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

SAN MATEO UNION HIGH SCHOOL  
DISTRICT.

OAH CASE NO. 2013090550

ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR  
CONTINUANCE AND SETTING  
PREHEARING CONFERENCE AND  
DUE PROCESS HEARING

On November 13, 2013, the San Mateo Union High School District (District) filed a request to continue the prehearing conference and due process hearing dates in this matter. The request was based upon the District's special education director's unavailability for the dates currently scheduled for hearing because of a scheduled surgery and recovery period. The Student did not file any response to the motion.

A due process hearing must be conducted and a decision rendered within 45 days of receipt of the due process notice unless an extension is granted for good cause. (34 C.F.R. § 300.515(a) & (c) (2006); Ed. Code, §§ 56502, subd. (f), 56505, subd. (f)(3); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 1, § 1020.) As a result, continuances are disfavored. Good cause may include the unavailability of a party, counsel, or an essential witness due to death, illness or other excusable circumstances; substitution of an attorney when the substitution is required in the interests of justice; a party's excused inability to obtain essential testimony or other material evidence despite diligent efforts; or another significant, unanticipated change in the status of the case as a result of which the case is not ready for hearing. (See Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.1332(c).) The Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) considers all relevant facts and circumstances, including the proximity of the hearing date; previous continuances or delays; the length of continuance requested; the availability of other means to address the problem giving rise to the request; prejudice to a party or witness as a result of a continuance; the impact of granting a continuance on other pending hearings; whether trial counsel is engaged in another trial; whether the parties have stipulated to a continuance; whether the interests of justice are served by the continuance; and any other relevant fact or circumstance. (See Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.1332(d).)

OAH has reviewed the request for good cause and considered all relevant facts and circumstances. The request is:

Granted. All dates are vacated. This matter will be set as follows:

Prehearing Conference: February 14, 2014, at 10:00 a.m.  
Due Process Hearing: February 25, 2014 at 9:30 a.m., and February 26 and  
27, 2014 at 9:00 a.m., and continuing day to day,  
Monday through Thursday, as needed at the  
discretion of the Administrative Law Judge.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: November 19, 2013

/s/

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MARGARET BROUSSARD  
Administrative Law Judge  
Office of Administrative Hearings