

BEFORE THE  
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of:

PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

SANTA CRUZ CITY SCHOOLS AND  
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY OFFICE OF  
EDUCATION.

OAH Case No. 2015120042

ORDER GRANTING JOINT REQUEST  
FOR CONTINUANCE AND SETTING  
MEDIATION, PREHEARING  
CONFERENCE, AND HEARING  
DATES

On December 11, 2015, the parties filed with the Office of Administrative Hearings an initial joint request to continue the dates in this matter.<sup>1</sup>

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).) 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:

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<sup>1</sup> The parties' request to change the location of the hearing from Santa Cruz City Schools' District office to the Santa Cruz County Office of Education located at 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, California, 95060, is granted. OAH will issue an amended scheduling order noting the change in location.

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

Mediation: January 28, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.

Prehearing Conference: March 18, 2016, at 1:00 p.m.

Due Process Hearing: March 28, 2016, at 1:30 p.m., and March 29-30, 2016, at 9:00 a.m., and continuing day to day, Monday through Thursday, as needed at the discretion of the Administrative Law Judge.<sup>2</sup>

The parties shall immediately notify all potential witnesses of the hearing dates, and shall subpoena witnesses if necessary, to ensure that the witnesses will be available to testify. A witness will not be regarded as unavailable for purposes of showing good cause to continue the hearing if the witness is not properly notified of the hearing date or properly subpoenaed, as applicable.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATE: December 11, 2015

/s/

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THERESA RAVANDI  
Administrative Law Judge  
Office of Administrative Hearings

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<sup>2</sup> OAH and all state offices will be closed March 31, 2016.