

BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of:

PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

OCEANSIDE UNIFIED SCHOOL
DISTRICT.

OAH Case No. 2015071307

ORDER DENYING REQUEST FOR
CONTINUANCE

On September 24, 2015, the parties filed a joint request with the Office of Administrative Hearings to continue the dates in this matter for a second time because the parties need additional time to finalize a settlement. On August 26, 2015, OAH granted the parties' first continuance request, which set the prehearing conference for October 9, 2015, and hearing on October 19 through 21, 2015.

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:

- Denied. All prehearing conference and hearing dates are confirmed and shall proceed as calendared. Parties have not established good cause for a continuance as they provided no information why they cannot complete the settlement agreement

before the October 9, 2015 prehearing conference, or the hearing set to commence on October 19, 2015.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATE: September 25, 2015

/s/

PETER PAUL CASTILLO
Presiding Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings