

BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of:

PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL
DISTRICT.

OAH Case No. 2015020665

ORDER FOLLOWING PRE-HEARING
CONFERENCE

On March 30, 2015, Administrative Law Judge Adrienne L. Krikorian, Office of Administrative Hearings held a telephonic prehearing conference. Attorney Bryan Winn appeared on Student's behalf. Attorney Brianna Hill appeared on behalf of Pasadena Unified School District. The PHC was recorded.

Based on discussion of the parties, the ALJ issues the following order:

1. Hearing Dates, Times, and Location. The hearing shall take place on April 7, 2015, beginning at 9:30 a.m., April 8 and 9, 2015 at 9:00 a.m., and continuing day to day Monday through Thursday at the discretion of the ALJ. The hearing shall take place at the District's offices located at 351 South Hudson Avenue, Pasadena, California 91101.

District shall notify OAH and Student's counsel in writing not later than 4:00 p.m. Friday, April 3, 2015, if District changes the location of the hearing. District shall ensure that parking is available for Student's Parent, Student's attorney and the ALJ.

The school district shall provide a facility for the hearing that fully complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq.), the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 794 .), the Unruh Civil Rights Act (Civ. Code, § 51 et seq.), and all laws governing accessibility of government facilities to persons with disabilities.

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.

2. Issues and Proposed Resolutions. The issues at the due process hearing are:
 - a) Did District procedurally violate the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and as a result deny Student a free appropriate public education by:
 - 1) Failing to appropriately assess Student in all areas of suspected need; and
 - 2) Failing to develop an individualized educational program that included appropriate goals and objectives to meet her unique needs;
 - b) Did District substantively deny Student a FAPE by failing to offer Student an appropriate placement from October 16, 2013 until the time Student's complaint was filed?
 - c) Did District deprive Parent the opportunity to meaningfully participate in the development of Student's educational program by:
 - 1) Failing to provide Parents with all necessary information about Student;
 - 2) By providing Student with a full-time one-to-one behavior aide against Parent's objections?

Student's proposed resolutions include placement at a non-public school for the regular and extended school year, and reimbursement for an independent educational evaluation and costs incurred by Parent for home-schooling Student.

3. Exhibits. Exhibits shall be pre-marked and placed in three-ring exhibit binders prior to the hearing. The parties shall use numbers to identify exhibits, but shall place the letter "S" or "D" in front of the exhibit to designate if it is a Student or District exhibit (for example, "S-5, S-6, or D-1, D-2). Each exhibit shall be internally paginated by exhibit, or all of a party's exhibits shall be Bates-stamped. Each document with a separate date shall be separately identified. Each exhibit binder shall contain a detailed table of contents, including the date and title of the exhibit. The parties exchange their evidence binders in compliance with Education Code section 56505, subdivision (e)(7) unless they stipulate otherwise. At the hearing, the parties shall supply an exhibit binder containing their respective exhibits for use by the ALJ, and a second exhibit binder for use by witnesses.

The parties shall meet and confer by April 1, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. to discuss exhibits, delete duplicate exhibits, and consolidate exhibits where possible. The parties shall not serve exhibits on OAH prior to the hearing.

The parties shall exchange resumes or curriculum vitae for each witness who is expected to testify as to their professional credentials. Notwithstanding the requirements of Education Code section 56505, subd. (e)(7), the parties shall exchange resumes not later than 24 hours before the witness is scheduled to testify.

Except for good cause shown, or unless used solely for rebuttal or impeachment, any exhibit not included in the exhibit lists and not previously exchanged shall not be admitted into evidence at the hearing unless it is supported by written declaration under penalty of perjury, and the ALJ rules that it is admissible.

4. Witnesses. Each party is responsible for procuring the attendance at hearing of its own witnesses. Each party shall make witnesses under its control reasonably available. The parties shall schedule their witnesses to avoid delays in the hearing and to minimize or eliminate the need for calling witnesses out of order. Neither party shall be permitted to call any witnesses not disclosed in the party's prehearing conference statement except for good cause shown, supported by written declaration under penalty of perjury, and at the discretion of the ALJ.

The parties are ordered to meet and confer by April 1, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. as to the schedule of witnesses. On the first day of hearing, the parties shall provide the ALJ with a detailed schedule which shall include an estimate of time for each side's direct and cross examination. Each witness will only be called once to testify, except for rebuttal purposes, and both parties shall examine the witness on all issues when the witness is first called. The District shall have witnesses available in case agreement on a witness list is not reached. The parties shall be prepared at the end of each day of hearing to discuss the witnesses to be presented the next day and the time the testimony of each such witness is expected to take.

The parties are encouraged to review and shorten their witness lists prior to the hearing, bearing in mind that evidence will be excluded if it is repetitive, cumulative, or insufficiently probative to justify the time it would take to hear.

Prior to the commencement of the due process hearing, the ALJ and the parties will discuss the length of time anticipated for cross-examination of each witness and scheduling issues for individual witnesses, and the ALJ will finalize the witness schedule. The ALJ has discretion to limit the number of witnesses who testify and the time allowed for witnesses' testimony.

5. Scope of Witness Examination. After the first direct and cross-examinations, each party shall be limited in examining the witness to only those matters raised in the immediately preceding examination.

6. Telephonic Testimony. Whether a witness may appear by telephone is a matter within the discretion of the ALJ. Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 3082, subd. (g). Any party seeking to present a witness by telephone shall move in advance for leave to do so, unless the opposing party has stipulated that the witness may appear by telephone. The proponent of the witness shall provide the proposed witness with a complete set of exhibit binders from all parties, containing all of each party's exhibits, prior to the hearing; and shall ensure that the hearing room has sound equipment that allows everyone in the room to hear the witness, and the witness to hear objections and rulings. No witness will be heard by telephone unless all these requirements have been fulfilled.

7. Motions. No pretrial motions are pending or contemplated. Any motion filed after this date shall be supported by a declaration under penalty of perjury establishing good cause as to why the motion was not made prior to or during the prehearing conference of March 30, 2015.

8. Stipulations. Stipulations to pertinent facts, contentions or resolutions are encouraged. Any proposed stipulation shall be submitted to the assigned ALJ in written form.

9. Conduct of Counsel and Hearing Room Decorum. Counsel, all parties, and all witnesses shall conduct themselves in a professional and courteous manner at all times. Cellular phones, pagers, recorders, and other noisemaking electronic devices shall be shut off or set to vibrate during the hearing unless permission to the contrary is obtained from the ALJ.

10. Compensatory Education/Reimbursement. Any party seeking reimbursement of expenditures shall present admissible evidence of these expenditures, or a stipulation to the amount of expenditures, as part of its case in chief. A party seeking compensatory education should provide evidence regarding the type, amount, duration, and need for any requested compensatory education.

11. Special Needs and Accommodations. At present neither party anticipates the need for special accommodation for any witness or party, or for translation services. A party or participant to this case, such as a witness, requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in the hearing may contact the assigned calendar clerk at (916) 263-0880, the OAH ADA Coordinator at OAHADA@dgs.ca.gov or 916-263-0880 as soon as the need is made known. Additional information concerning requests for reasonable accommodation is available on OAH's website at <http://www.dgs.ca.gov/oah/Home/Accommodations.aspx>.

12. Hearing Closed To the Public.

13. Settlement. The parties are encouraged to continue working together to reach an agreement before the due process hearing. The parties shall inform OAH in writing immediately should they reach a settlement or otherwise resolve the dispute before the scheduled hearing. In addition, if a settlement is reached within five days of the scheduled start of the due process hearing, the parties shall also inform OAH of the settlement by telephone at (916) 263-0880.

IF A FULL AND FINAL WRITTEN SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT IS REACHED AFTER 5:00 P.M. THE DAY PRIOR TO HEARING, THE PARTIES SHALL LEAVE A VOICEMAIL MESSAGE REGARDING THE SETTLEMENT AT (916) 274-6035. THE PARTIES SHOULD ALSO LEAVE CONTACT INFORMATION SUCH AS CELLULAR PHONE NUMBERS OF EACH PARTY OR COUNSEL FOR EACH PARTY. THE PARTIES SHOULD SIMULTANEOUSLY FAX THE SIGNATURE PAGE OF THE

SIGNED AGREEMENT OR A LETTER WITHDRAWING THE CASE TO THE OAH AT THE FAXINATION LINE at 916-376-6319.

Dates for hearing will not be cancelled until the letter of withdrawal or signature page of the signed agreement has been timely received by OAH. If an agreement in principle is reached, the parties should plan to attend the scheduled hearing unless different arrangements have been agreed upon by the assigned ALJ. The assigned ALJ will check for messages the evening prior to the hearing or the morning of the hearing.

If the matter settles subject to board approval, in addition to a signed copy of the signature page of the settlement agreement as noted above, the parties shall submit a request for a status conference and provide the date of the next board meeting. The parties should confirm with OAH staff that the request has been received by OAH and the ALJ notified. The hearing dates will not be cancelled without this information.

14. Failure to comply with this order may result in the exclusion of evidence or other sanctions.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATE: March 30, 2015

/s/

ADRIENNE L. KRIKORIAN
Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings