

BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of:

PARENTS ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

AMADOR COUNTY UNIFIED SCHOOL
DISTRICT AND AMADOR COUNTY
OFFICE OF EDUCATION.

OAH CASE NO. 2013101061

ORDER FOLLOWING PREHEARING
CONFERENCE

On December 16, 2013, a telephonic prehearing conference (PHC) was held before Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Peter Paul Castillo, Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH). Christian M. Knox, Attorney at Law, appeared on behalf of Student. Jennifer R. Fain, Attorney at Law, appeared on behalf of Amador Unified School District (District) and Amador County Office of Education (County). The PHC was recorded.

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

1. Hearing Dates, Times, and Location. The hearing shall take place on January 6, 7, 8 and 9, 2014, and continuing day to day, Monday through Thursday, as needed at the discretion of the Administrative Law Judge. The hearing shall begin each day at 9:00 a.m. and end at 5:00 p.m., with the exception of the first day of hearing, on which day the hearing shall begin at 1:30 p.m. The hearing shall take place at the District's offices, located at 217 Rex Avenue, Jackson, California 95642.¹

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.

¹ At a minimum, the room shall have separate tables capable of being moved into a courtroom configuration, as follows: (1) one table for Student's representatives; (2) one table for the District's and County's representatives; (3) one table for the ALJ with a nearby electrical outlet; and (4) one witness table. The District shall ensure that all parties and the ALJ have drinking water and tissue available to them.

2. Issues and Proposed Resolutions. The issues at the due process hearing are listed below.

a) During the 2013-2014 school year, did the District and County deny the Student a free appropriate public education by failing to:

1. Provide Student with an appropriate educational placement;
2. Provide Student with adequate behavior services and behavior support plan;
3. Implement Student's transition plan;
4. Provide an adequate transition plan;
5. Provide adequate applied behavior analysis services;
6. Provide adequate assistive technology services and equipment;
7. Ensure that assistive technology was implemented during the school day;
8. Provide a full school-day;
9. Collect and report accurate data;
10. Provide instruction from a highly qualified teacher;
11. Provide adequate transportation services, including an aide on the bus; and
12. Provide adequate inclusion services?

b) As a proposed resolution, Student requests that the District reimburse Parents for all costs incurred to implement Student's home based educational program, and transportation to the District's and County's educational program. As prospective relief, Student requests that the District and County fund Student's home based educational program and costs associated with the program.

3. Exhibits. Exhibits shall be pre-marked and placed in three-ring exhibit binders prior to the hearing. District and County shall prepare a joint evidence binder. 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/County exhibit (for example, "S-5, S-6", "D-1, D-2."). Each exhibit shall be internally paginated by exhibit, or all of a party's exhibits shall be Bates-stamped. Each exhibit binder shall contain a detailed table of contents. In compliance with Education Code section 56505, subdivision (e)(7), the parties shall exchange exhibits by 5:00 p.m., on December 27, 2013. At the hearing, each party shall supply an exhibit binder containing its exhibits for use by the ALJ, and a second exhibit

binder for use by witnesses. The parties may not serve exhibits on OAH prior to the hearing. In the event of duplicate exhibits, the most legible version will be used.

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 have agreed to coordinate the availability and order of testimony of witnesses to ensure that there is a witness available to testify at all times during the hearing, and to ensure that the hearing is completed as scheduled. By 5:00 p.m. on January 2, 2014, Student shall serve on the districts and on the ALJ and by 2:00 p.m. on January 3, 2014, the final witness list, including the anticipated order of the witnesses to be called at the hearing, an estimate of the length of time for the direct examination of each witness the party actually intends to call, along with time estimates for the testimony of any additional witnesses the party may call, depending on the flow of the hearing and the evidence.² 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.

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.

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

² Parties shall not mail a hard copy of any document to OAH that has already been filed by facsimile transmission.

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.

[[Name of party]'s motion to allow [Witness name] to testify telephonically is granted/denied.] [[Name of party] shall provide [Name of party] with a complete exhibit binder from each party, 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.]

7. Timely Disclosure of Witnesses/Exhibits. [The request of [Name of party] to delay disclosure of witnesses/exhibits until [Number of] days prior to the hearing is denied/granted, and witnesses/exhibits shall be exchanged by [Date] at [Time] a.m./p.m.] [Education Code section 56505, subdivision (e)(7), provides for disclosure of witnesses and exhibits "at least" five business days prior to the hearing.] [The OAH order of [Date], specifically ordered the production of lists of all witnesses/documents by an earlier date, to wit: at least three business days prior to this PHC.]

8. Order of Presentation of Evidence. The order of presentation of evidence shall be as follows: Student, District and then County. If a witness is to be called by more than one party, the parties shall conduct direct and cross-examination so that the witness need only testify once.

9. Motions. [Rulings on motions made at PHC.] [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 [Date].]

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

11. 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 during the hearing unless permission to the contrary is obtained from the ALJ.

12. 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.

13. Special Needs and Accommodations. A [Type of language] language interpreter [or other accommodation] is required.

At present neither party anticipates the need for special accommodation for any witness or party, or for translation services.

14. Hearing Open/Closed To the Public. [At the request of the parent, the hearing will be open to the public.]

15. Settlement. The parties are encouraged to continue their attempts 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. If a settlement is reached five business days or fewer before the due process hearing is scheduled to begin, the parties shall, in addition, immediately inform OAH of that fact by telephone at (916) 263-0880. Dates for hearing will not be cancelled until the letter of withdrawal or signature page of the signed agreement has been 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. IF A FULL AND FINAL SETTLEMENT IS REACHED AFTER 5:00 P.M. ON THE LAST BUSINESS DAY PRIOR TO HEARING, THE PARTIES SHALL LEAVE A VOICEMAIL MESSAGE REGARDING THE SETTLEMENT AT (916) 274-6035, AND SHALL ALSO LEAVE CELLULAR PHONE NUMBERS OF EACH PARTY OR COUNSEL FOR EACH PARTY. The ALJ will check for messages the evening prior to the hearing and the morning of the hearing.

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

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: December 16, 2013

/s/

PETER PAUL CASTILLO
Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings