

BEFORE THE  
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of:

VAL VERDE UNIFIED SCHOOL  
DISTRICT,

v.

PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT.

OAH Case No. 2015050818

ORDER FOLLOWING PREHEARING  
CONFERENCE

On August 10, 2015, a telephonic prehearing conference was held before Administrative Law Judge Robert Helfand, Office of Administrative Hearings. Constance M. Taylor, Attorney at Law, appeared on behalf of the Val Verde Unified School District. Student's father appeared on behalf of Parents on behalf of Student. District filed its PHC Statement on August 5, 2015. Student has not filed a PHC Statement. 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 August 18-20, 2015, at the District's offices located at 975 West Morgan Street, Perris, CA 92571. The hearing shall continue day to day Monday through Thursday as needed at the discretion of the ALJ. The hearing shall begin at 9:30 a.m. the first day of the hearing and at 9:00 a.m. all other days unless otherwise ordered.

District shall ensure that the hearing room is configured into a courtroom setting and shall have at a minimum 1) a table for Parents and their representatives; 2) a table for District's legal representative and special education representative; 3) a table for the witness; and 4) a table for the ALJ, near an electrical outlet. District shall provide drinking water to all parties, witnesses and the ALJ. The same hearing room shall be used for each day of hearing and shall be available at least one hour prior to the commencement of the hearing each day. The hearing room shall be locked following the hearing each night.

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. § 1210 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. Issue. The sole issue at the due process hearing is:

Whether the District's initial assessment, resulting in an April 7, 2015 written report, was appropriate, such that the District is not obligated to fund parent requested Independent Education Evaluations?

District's proposed resolution is that OAH issue an order finding that District assessments were appropriate and that Student is not entitled to an IEE at public expense.

3. Exhibits. Student has not filed a PHC Statement or Exhibit List. Thus, Student will be limited to introducing into evidence only those documents which appear on the District's Exhibit List. Student will be able to utilize additional exhibits in rebuttal to the District's case which do not appear on the District Exhibit List.

Exhibits shall be pre-marked and placed in three-ring exhibit binders prior to the hearing. The District shall use numbers to identify its exhibits. Student shall use letters to identify any of any her exhibits. 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. The parties represent that they have served their evidence binders on each other in compliance with Education Code section 56505, subdivision (e)(7). 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.

District has listed the following exhibits: February 12, 2015 Assessment Plan and Prior Written Notice; April 7, 2015 Multidisciplinary Psycho-Education report; April 7, 2015 Individualized Education Program meeting document; April 9, 2015 Inland Counties Regional Center Psychological Assessment; and April 22, 2015 Prior Written notice.

Student is directed to provide any rebuttal exhibits on the first day of hearing.

4. Witnesses. Student failed to file a PHC Statement or Witness List. Student will be limited to calling witnesses who appear on the District Witness List with the exception of Student's parents. Student will be permitted to call a witness not listed above for rebuttal to the District's case only.

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 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.

The parties shall attempt to reach agreement on a witness list for the first day of hearing. 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 ALJ has discretion to limit the number of witnesses who testify and the time allowed for witnesses' testimony.

The District has designated the following as potential witnesses: Student's parents; Cecilia Vu; T. Marroquinn; Jennifer Rapoza; K. Granillo; Pamela Pagel; Michele Barrett; Tammy Speer; Jeffrey Janis; and Troy Knudsvig.

The parties are directed to meet and confer no later than August 13, 2015, as to the witness schedule.

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. Neither party has requested 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.

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. Special Needs and Accommodations. A Student representative requires wheelchair access to the hearing room. Neither party anticipates any other 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](mailto:OAHADA@dgs.ca.gov) or (916)263-0880 as soon the need is made known. Additional information concerning requests for reasonable accommodations is available on OAH's website at <http://www.dgs.ca.gov/oah/Home/Accommodations.aspx>.

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

11. Hearing Closed To the Public. The hearing will be closed to the public.

12. 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 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.

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

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATE: August 10, 2015

/s/

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ROBERT HELFAND  
Administrative Law Judge  
Office of Administrative Hearings