

BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF:
PARENTS ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT.

OAH CASE NUMBER 2022020622

ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR VIDECONFERENCE
MEDIATION AND SECOND REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE

MARCH 14, 2022

On March 11, 2022, the parties filed with the Office of Administrative Hearings, referred to as OAH, a joint request for mediation and a second request to continue this matter. On March 4, 2022, OAH granted the parties' initial request for continuance but was unable to accommodate the requested mediation date. This matter is currently scheduled for hearing beginning April 12, 2022.

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. (Ed. Code, § 56505, subd. (f)(3); 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 or imposing conditions on the continuance; and any other relevant fact or circumstance. (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:

Granted. All dates are vacated. The parties' request to participate in mediation constitutes good cause to continue the hearing schedule. This matter will be set as follows:

Mediation will be held on April 6, 2022, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM, via videoconferencing.

Prehearing Conference will be held on April 29, 2022, at 1:00 PM.

ANY CHANGES TO PARTICIPANT EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR MEDIATION AND PREHEARING CONFERENCES MUST BE FILED TWO BUSINESS DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE SCHEDULED EVENT.

Due Process Hearing will be held on May 10, 11, and 12, 2022. The hearing shall begin at 9:30 AM on all days unless otherwise ordered. The hearing shall continue day to day, as needed at the discretion of the Administrative Law Judge.

The parties shall immediately notify all potential witnesses of the hearing dates, and shall subpoena witnesses, if necessary, to ensure their availability to testify. Good cause for witness unavailability is not established by failing to properly notify or subpoena a witness. Prehearing conference statements and motions are due to OAH no later than three business days before the prehearing conference or with evidence of good cause why it was not possible to file the motion by that date.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Theresa Ravandi

Theresa Ravandi

Administrative Law Judge

Office of Administrative Hearings