BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of:	
PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,	OAH Case No. 2018060196
v.	ORDER FOLLOWING PREHEARING CONFERENCE
HUNTINGTON BEACH UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT.	

On August 27, 2018, a telephonic prehearing conference was held before Administrative Law Judge Darrell Lepkowsky, Office of Administrative Hearings. Mother appeared on behalf of Student. A Vietnamese interpreter was present by telephone to interpret from Vietnamese to English and from English to Vietnamese for Mother. Epiphany Owen, Attorney at Law, appeared on behalf of Huntington Beach Union High School District. The ALJ recorded the prehearing conference.

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

1. Hearing Dates, Times, and Location. The hearing shall take place on **September 4, 5, and 6, 2018**, and continuing day to day, Monday through Thursday, at the discretion of the ALJ. **The hearing shall take place at the West Orange County Consortium for Special Education, 5832 Bolsa Avenue, Huntington Beach, CA 92649. The hearing shall begin at 1:30 p.m. the first day of the hearing and at 9:00 a.m. all other days, unless otherwise ordered**.

As required, Huntington Beach certified that its facilities for the hearing fully comply 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 et seq.), the Unruh Civil Rights Act (Civ. Code, § 51 et seq.), and all laws governing accessibility of government facilities to persons with disabilities. Huntington Beach shall immediately notify OAH if it is no longer able to provide compliant facilities.

Prior to the beginning of the hearing, Huntington Beach shall ensure that the hearing room is configured into a courtroom setting and shall have at a minimum (1) a table for Student and his representatives; (2) a table for Huntington Beach's legal representative and special education representative; (3) a table for the witness; and (4) a table for the ALJ, near an electrical outlet. Huntington Beach shall provide drinking water and tissue 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. Huntington Beach shall

ensure that the hearing room and access to it are in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Huntington Beach shall also arrange a separate room for Student and his representative(s) to use during breaks in the hearing. The room shall be available to Student at least a half hour before the start of the hearing each day, during hearing breaks, and during lunch.

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.

1) Did Huntington Beach deny Student a free appropriate public education from June 2016 to the present by failing to provide him with an hour a day of speech and language therapy to address his communication needs?

2) Did Huntington Beach deny Student a FAPE by failing to conduct an appropriate speech and language assessment in December 2016 because it failed to properly address his communication needs and deficits?

3) Did Huntington Beach deny Student a FAPE by failing to consider and implement recommendations of his speech and language independent educational evaluation dated March 28, 2018?

4) Did Huntington Beach deny Student a FAPE by timely failing to make a decision about the recommendations from Student's speech and language independent educational evaluation at the individualized education program team meeting held on March 28, 2018?

To remedy his issues, Student requests that OAH order Huntington Beach to:

520 hours of compensatory speech and language therapy.

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 school 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 exhibit binder shall contain a detailed table of contents. The parties shall serve 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.

The parties shall meet and confer **by 5:00 p.m. on August 31, 2018,** to delete duplicate exhibits from the exhibit binders. **If the parties have duplicate exhibits, they shall jointly determine which shall be used at hearing.** The parties are not required to renumber exhibits if exhibits are deleted from notebooks. The parties may consolidate exhibits into joint exhibit binders if practical.

The parties shall exchange resumes for each witness who is expected to testify as to their professional credentials. Notwithstanding the requirements of Education Code section 56505, subdivision (e)(7), the parties shall exchange resumes and curriculum vitae not later than 5:00 p.m. on **August 31, 2018.**

Huntington Beach shall include as part of its exhibits the school calendar(s) for all of the years at issue. Notwithstanding the requirements of Education Code section 56505, subdivision (e)(7), Huntington Beach shall serve a copy of the school calendar(s) on Student 5:00 p.m. on **August 31, 2018,** and include the school calendar(s) in the binders provided for use by the witnesses and the ALJ.

Each exhibit shall consist of one document; separate documents may not be combined into one exhibit. Emails or letters may be consolidated into one exhibit if they are part of a single chain of messages. Documents offered as evidence to support a request for reimbursement must be separated by vendor and should be internally chronological where possible. To the extent practicable, exhibits in the binders shall be in chronological order.

Excerpts of an audio record of an individualized education program team meeting, if any, must be transcribed and offered as documentary evidence; that portion of the audio record transcribed shall be provided to the opposing party with the transcript to allow an opportunity to verify the accuracy of the transcription. Transcription need not be done by a certified court reporter.

If the parties intend to rely on individualized education programs, the parties shall attach all pages of the IEP(s), including copies of all actual signatures on the IEP(s) and any typewritten or handwritten notes or comments, if any, written on the IEP(s).

Except for good cause shown, or unless used solely for rebuttal or impeachment, any exhibit not timely 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. Education Code section 56505, subdivision (e)(8), affords each party the right to prohibit the introduction of any evidence at the hearing that has not been disclosed at least five business days before the hearing.

4. Witnesses. Each party is responsible for procuring the attendance at hearing of its own witnesses, and shall subpoena witnesses if necessary, to ensure that the witnesses

will be available to testify. 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.

The parties shall comply with Education Code section 56505, subdivision (e)(7). No party shall be permitted to call any witnesses not timely disclosed except for good cause shown, supported by written declaration under penalty of perjury, and at the discretion of the ALJ.

On the first day of hearing before the first witness testifies, the parties shall provide the ALJ with one joint detailed hour-by-hour schedule of all witnesses expected to testify at hearing, which list shall also include an estimate of time for each party's direct and cross-examination. Counsel shall meet and confer each day of hearing to revise the witness schedule as needed.

The parties are ordered to meet and confer by **no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 31, 2018,** to identify witnesses on their respective witness lists who cannot be produced at hearing without a subpoena and provide the witnesses' contact information to opposing counsel so that subpoenas can be issued. As part of the meet and confer process, Huntington Beach's counsel shall inform Student's representative as to whether the witnesses on Student's witness list are employed by or otherwise under the control of Huntington Beach, and if not, shall provide Student's counsel with the witness(es)' most recent contact information by **no later than August 29, 2018, at 2:00 p.m.** Any contact information provided by Huntington Beach shall be used by Student's counsel for the limited purpose of issuing subpoenas or for contacting the witness(es) for purposes of attending the hearing and shall not be disseminated to any other person(s). The parties shall also meet and confer **by 5:00 p.m. on August 31, 2018**, as to the schedule of witnesses and coordinate the availability and order 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. The parties shall also meet and confer regarding the one joint detailed hour-by-hour schedule

Huntington Beach 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 each 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 such evidence. The ALJ has discretion to limit the number of witnesses who testify and the time allowed for witnesses' testimony. Education Code, section 56505.1, subdivision (h), empowers the ALJ presiding at a due process hearing to set a reasonable limit on the length of the hearing after consideration of all of the following: (i) issues to be heard, (ii) complexity of facts to be proven, (iii) ability of the parties or their representatives to present their respective cases, and (iv) estimates of the parties as to the time needed to present their respective cases.

5. Scope of Witness Examination. Each witness shall be called to testify only once, except for rebuttal purposes, and all parties shall examine the witness on all issues when the witness is first called. 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 unless otherwise permitted by the ALJ. The order in which the parties present their cases in chief shall be subordinate to the need for each witness to appear only once. Unless otherwise ordered, only one round of redirect and/or re-cross examination shall be permitted.

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. Prior to the hearing, the proponent of the witness shall provide the proposed witness with a complete set of duplicate physical copies of the exhibit binders from all parties, containing all of each party's exhibits and shall instruct the witness not to remove any documents from the exhibit binders. Faxed or electronic copies are unacceptable. The hearing room shall have sound equipment that allows everyone in the room to hear the witness, and the witness to hear objections and rulings. Unless otherwise ordered, the witness shall testify on a land-line telephone while alone in a private room. No witness will be heard by telephone unless all these requirements have been fulfilled. Neither party requested telephonic testimony.

7. Electronic Recording of Hearing.

a. Audio Recording. The ALJ shall record the hearing and the ALJ's recording is the only official record of the hearing. No person shall record or photograph the proceedings unless otherwise permitted by the ALJ.

The parties' request to record the hearing is granted. Either party may make an audio recording of the hearing as a courtesy and subject to the following conditions: 1) OAH's recording is the only official recording unless otherwise ordered; 2) the recording will be turned on and off at the same time as the ALJ's recording, to avoid recording conversations while off the record; 3) operation of the party's recording mechanism will not be allowed to delay the hearing; 4) the recording shall not be played or published for a prospective witness; and 5) No more than one person for each party may record the hearing and that person must record from counsel table.

b. Video Recording. No party, witness or anyone else present may make any video recording of any part of the proceedings. Any person doing so shall be subject to sanctions.

8. Order of Presentation of Evidence. In an administrative proceeding, the burden of proof is ordinarily on the party requesting the hearing. (*Schaffer v. Weast* (2005) 546 U.S. 49, 56-62 [126 S.Ct. 528, 163 L.Ed.2d 387].) Here, Student is the petitioning party.

Accordingly, subject to the parameters discussed in Paragraph 5, Student shall present his case-in-chief, followed by Huntington Beach.

9. Motions.

a. The parties' oral motion to record the hearing is granted pursuant to the parameters sated in paragraph 7 above.

b. No other pretrial motions are pending or contemplated. Any other 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 three days prior to the prehearing conference of August 27, 2018.

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. Stipulations. Stipulations to pertinent facts, contentions or resolutions are encouraged. Any proposed stipulation shall be submitted to the assigned ALJ in written form. The parties shall meet and confer **by 5:00 p.m. on August 31, 2018**, to determine legal and factual stipulations, if any, to be submitted at hearing and before the record closes.

12. 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. There shall be no texting permitted while the hearing is in session. No eating is permitted in the hearing room while the ALJ is on the record. The parties may not remain in the hearing room during the lunch break.

13. Special Needs and Accommodations. Student requires a Vietnamese interpreter for the hearing. Student will be present at the hearing and may require breaks to eat.

Neither party has indicated any other special need or need for any accommodation.

A party or participant to this case, such as a witness, requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in the mediation or hearing may contact the assigned calendar staff, identified in the scheduling order, at (916) 263-0880, as soon as the need is known. Additional information concerning requests for reasonable accommodation is available on OAH's website at: http://www.dgs.ca.gov/oah/Home/Accommodations.aspx

14. The hearing will be closed to the public unless Student requests that it be open.

15. 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 EMAIL THE SIGNATURE PAGE OF THE SIGNED AGREEMENT OR A LETTER WITHDRAWING THE CASE TO OAH AT https://www.applications.dgs.ca.gov/oah/oahsftweb.

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.

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 hearing dates will not be cancelled without this information.

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

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATE: August 27, 2018

DocuSigned by:
Darrell Lepkowsky
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DARRELL LEPKOWSKY
Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings