BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of:	
PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,	OAH Case No. 2017050461
v.	ORDER FOLLOWING PREHEARING CONFERENCE
SEQUOIA UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT	

On June 30, 2017, a telephonic prehearing conference was held before Administrative Law Judge Rebecca Freie, Office of Administrative Hearings. Thomas E. Beltran, Attorney at Law, appeared on behalf of Student. Matthew J. Tamel, Attorney at Law, appeared on behalf of Sequoia Union High School District. The PHC was recorded.

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

1. Hearing Dates, Times, and Location. The hearing shall take place on July 6, 2017, continuing day to day, Monday through Thursday, at the discretion of the ALJ. The hearing shall take place at the Sequoia's offices located at 480 James Avenue, Redwood City, California 94062. The hearing shall begin at 9:30 a.m.

As ordered in the scheduling order, Sequoia is to 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 et seq.), the Unruh Civil Rights Act (Civ. Code, § 51 et seq.), and all laws governing accessibility of government facilities to persons with disabilities. Sequoia has failed to certify that it would provide a facility for this case that complied with the law. Sequoia shall file a certification that the hearing location complies with these laws no later than 5:00 p.m. July 5, 2017.

Prior to the beginning of the hearing, Sequoia 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 Sequoia's legal representative and special education representative; (3) a table for the witness; and (4) a table for the ALJ, near an electrical outlet. Sequoia 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. Sequoia shall ensure that the hearing room and access to it are in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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 and Proposed Resolutions. The issue at the due process hearing, and the proposed resolution, are listed below.

Issue

Did Sequoia deny Student a free appropriate public education because it refused to provide him with transportation to and from his high school as required by his individualized education program?

Proposed Resolutions

1) A finding that Sequoia failed to allow implementation of the January 31, 2017 addendum IEP, thus denying Student a FAPE for the 2017-2018 school year.

2) A finding that Sequoia's intra-district open enrollment process denies Student and similarly situated children who require transportation to benefit from their educational program, to access their placement as identified in their IEP.

3) An order that Sequoia provide round trip transportation to Student to and from his high school as described in his January 31, 2017 IEP, for the 2017-2018 school year at no cost to Student or Parents.

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 the pages in a party's exhibit binder shall be consecutively paginated or 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 ALJ will determine what exhibits are admissible at the hearing. Except for good cause shown, or unless used solely for rebuttal or impeachment, any exhibit not timely exchanged shall not be admitted unless the ALJ rules that it is admissible. All documents in

a parties' exhibit binder may not be admitted. Evidence will be excluded if it is repetitive, cumulative, or insufficiently probative to justify the time it would take to review it.

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 timely disclosed to the other party. Testimony will be excluded if it is repetitive, cumulative, or insufficiently probative to justify the time it would take to hear it.

The parties are encouraged to review and shorten their witness lists prior to the hearing. They shall meet and confer no later than close of business, July 3, 2017, to discuss the order in which witnesses will testify. Sequoia shall have witnesses available in case agreement on a witness list is not reached. Prior to the commencement of the due process hearing, the ALJ and the parties will discuss the witness list and the length of time anticipated for direct and cross-examination of each witness, scheduling issues for individual witnesses, and the ALJ will finalize the witness schedule. Additionally, 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.

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. The order in which the parties present their cases in chief shall be subordinate to the need for each witness to appear only once.

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. 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. Electronic Recording of Hearing.

a. Audio Recording. Sequoia's motion to make an audio recording of the hearing is granted, subject to the following conditions: 1) that OAH's recording is the only official recording; 2) that the recorder will be turned on and off at the same time as the ALJ's recorder, in order to avoid recording conversations while off the record; and 3) that operation of the party's recording mechanism will not be allowed to delay the hearing. If Student desires to make such a recording, he shall move for leave to do so in advance of the hearing, and the same conditions shall apply.

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, Student shall present its case-in-chief, followed by Sequoia.

9. Motions. Sequoia filed a motion to dismiss Student's complaint on June 27, 2017, on the grounds that Student's case is not ripe for adjudication because the 2017-2018 school year has not begun, and therefore Student's has no claim. Student filed an opposition to the motion. The motion and opposition were reviewed, and oral argument was heard. Sequoia's motion to dismiss was denied on the record.

Sequoia indicated that it might be filing a motion in limine to exclude one of Student's exhibits on grounds that it was related to settlement negotiations between the parties. The ALJ advised the parties that she does not view exhibits prior to admission (unless necessary to determine admissibility), and does not consider any exhibit not admitted during her deliberations. Further, Sequoia can object to the exhibit during the hearing and any objection will be ruled on at that time.

No other 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 June 30, 2017.

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.

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.

13. Special Needs and Accommodations. 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

https://www.dgs.ca.gov/oah/Home/Accessibility.aspx.

14. Hearing Open/Closed to the Public. 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 NOON 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.

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

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATE: July 3, 2017

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Rebecca Freie
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REBECCA FREIE
Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings