

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Student and Suffield Board of Education

Appearing on behalf of the Student:

Attorney Lawrence Berliner
Law Office of Lawrence Berliner
1720 Post Road East, Suite 214E
Westport, CT 06880

Appearing on behalf of the Board of Education:

Attorney Linda Yoder
Shipman & Goodwin
One Constitution Plaza
Hartford, CT 06103-1919

Appearing before:

Attorney Ann F. Bird, Hearing Officer

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

ISSUES:

1. Did the Board of Education offer the Student a free appropriate public education for the 2014-2015 School Year as of September 1, 2014?
2. If not, is the Grove School an appropriate placement for the Student?
3. If the Grove School is an appropriate placement, is the Student entitled to reimbursement for the expenses of the Grove School from September 1, 2014 forward?
4. If the Grove School is an appropriate placement, should the Student be placed there?

PROCEDURAL HISTORY:

The Student requested a special education due process hearing in the above-captioned matter on December 10, 2014. This Impartial Hearing Officer was assigned to the case on December 11, 2014. A telephonic pre-hearing conference was held on December 23, 2014. Attorney Lawrence Berliner appeared on behalf of the Student and Attorney Linda Yoder appeared on behalf of the Board of Education. At that time, it was established that the deadline for filing the final decision was February 23, 2015. Hearings were scheduled for January 26, 2015 and January 29, 2015.

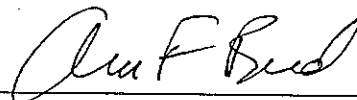
On January 13, 2015, Counsel for the Student reported that the parties were engaged in settlement discussions and requested that the scheduled hearings be cancelled. The request was granted and the hearings of January 26, 2015 and January 29, 2015 were cancelled and a new date of March 13, 2015 was established. On February 18, 2015, Counsel for the Student submitted a written request for a thirty-day postponement and extension of the timeline to conduct the hearing and to file the final decision in this case to March 23, 2015. Counsel for the Board of Education did not object and the request was granted. On March 9, 2015, the Student reported that the dispute had been resolved, and requested that the case be dismissed.

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER:

It is ordered that the Student's request for dismissal is granted and this matter is dismissed.

If the local or regional board of education or the unified school district responsible for providing special education for the student requiring special education does not take action on the findings or prescription of the hearing officer within fifteen days after receipt thereof, the State Board of Education shall take appropriate action to enforce the findings or prescription of the hearing officer.

Appeals from the hearing decision of the hearing officer may be made to state or federal court by either party in accordance with the provisions of Section 4-183, Connecticut General Statutes, and Title 20, United States Code 1415(i)(2)(A).



Hearing Officer Signature

ANN F BIRD

Hearing Officer Name in Print