

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Student v. Region 14 Board of Education

Appearing on behalf of the Parent:

Mrs. Susan Ratcliffe (pro se)  
154 Upper Grassy Hill Road  
Woodbury, CT 06798

Appearing on behalf of the Board:

Attorney Alyce Alfano  
Shipman & Goodwin, LLP  
One Constitution Plaza  
Hartford, CT 06103-1919

Appearing before:

Robert L. Skelley, Esq.  
Hearing Officer

**FINAL DECISION AND ORDER**

**ISSUES:**

1. Did the Regional School District 14 ("Board") provide the Student a free and appropriate public education ("FAPE") for the 2013-2014 academic years? IF NOT:
2. Does the Student need an out-of-district placement to receive a FAPE, and if so, is the Woodhall School an appropriate placement?
3. Is the Board providing a FAPE to the Student for the 2014-2015 academic years? IF NOT:
4. Does the Student need an out-of-district placement to receive a FAPE, and if so, is the Woodhall School an appropriate placement?
5. If the Woodhall School is an appropriate placement, are the Parents entitled to reimbursement for their tuition and transportation costs incurred by their unilateral placement of the Student?
6. Are the Parents entitled to reimbursement for their independent educational evaluation, conducted by Dr. Phillips in or around April 2014?
7. Are the Parents entitled to reimbursement for the community based psychotherapy and medication management of the Student by Dr. Phillips (medication management from March 2014 forward) and Ms. Edwards (1:1 psychotherapy from 10/2014 forward)?

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY:**

This complaint was filed on October 8, 2014. A prehearing conference was held on October 31, 2014, from which the issues listed above were identified. Due process hearings were initially set for December 11 and December 12, 2014. On November 24, 2014 the Parties requested a postponement of the hearing dates in December and an extension of the final decision to allow for continued settlement discussions. The request was granted and a hearing date of January 8, 2015. The Parties reached agreement and settled the matter, the Parents withdrew the complaint on January 3, 2015, *with prejudice*.

**FINAL DECISION AND ORDER:**

With the withdrawal of the complaint by the Parents on January 3, 2015, and with no further issues to be decided, this matter is DISMISSED, *with prejudice*.

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

Robert L. Skelley, Esq.

Hearing Officer      Name in Print