

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Student and Fairfield Board of Education

Appearing on behalf of the Student:

Attorney Melanie Dunn
Attorney Andrew Feinstein
Attorneys at Law
86 Denison Avenue
Mystic, CT 06355

Appearing on behalf of the Board of Education:

Attorney Michelle Laubin
Berchem, Moses & Devlin, P.C.
75 Broad Street
Milford, CT 06460

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 from April 2, 2013 forward?
2. If not, were the Student's unilateral placements at Eagle Hill School and/or Villa Maria School appropriate?
3. If the unilateral placement is appropriate, is the Student entitled to reimbursement of the expenses of the unilateral placement?
4. Is the Student entitled to reimbursement for the expense of evaluations conducted by Dr. Schwartz and/or Dr. Weiss?
5. Is the Student entitled to reimbursement for the expense of therapeutic services provided by the Children's Therapy and Learning Center and/or by Dr. Bartolomeo?

PROCEDURAL HISTORY:

The Student filed this request for a special education due process hearing on April 2, 2015. The Impartial Hearing Officer was assigned to the case on April 8, 2015. A prehearing conference was held on April 22, 2015. Attorney Melanie Dunn appeared on behalf of the Student and Attorney Michelle Laubin appeared on behalf of the Board of Education. A hearing was scheduled for June 23, 2015. The deadline for submitting the final decision was established to be June 16, 2015.

On April 22, 2015, the Student submitted a written request for a thirty-day postponement and extension of the timelines to conduct the hearing and to file the final decision in this case to July 14, 2015. The purpose of the requested postponement and extension was to allow the

parties to pursue mediation, which was scheduled for June 2, 2015. The Board of Education agreed to the requested postponement and it was granted.

On June 16, 2015, The Student reported that the parties had reached a tentative settlement and submitted a second written request for a thirty-day postponement and extension of the timelines to conduct the hearing and to file the final decision in this case to August 11, 2015. The request was granted.

August 7, 2015, the Student reported that the parties were near completion of their settlement and requested a third short extension of time to allow them to finalize their agreement. The Board of Education did not object to the request.

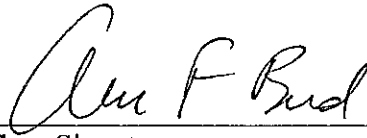
On August 7, 2015, the Student reported that the parties had finally resolved their dispute, and requested that the case be dismissed.

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