

**Otto, Diana**

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**From:** Halper, Judith on behalf of OCR Boston  
**Sent:** Monday, July 12, 2010 12:54 PM  
**To:** Halper, Judith  
**Subject:** FW: OCR Electronic Complaint Submission

-----Original Message-----

From: ocr\_complaint@ed.gov [mailto:ocr\_complaint@ed.gov]  
Sent: Saturday, July 10, 2010 11:11 PM  
To: [REDACTED] OCR Boston  
Subject: OCR Electronic Complaint Submission

Non Responsive

PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS E-MAIL. THIS E-MAIL ADDRESS IS USED BY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AUTOMATED SYSTEMS AND IS NOT MONITORED.

Your complaint with the Office for Civil Rights, a copy of which is reproduced below, has been automatically forwarded to the following office for review:

Office for Civil Rights/ED  
Boston Office

5 Post Office Square

Boston, MA, 02109-3921

So that we can best assist you, we call your attention to the following:

1. If you need to communicate with OCR regarding your complaint before you are contacted directly, please do not reply to this message, which would result in your reply going to a send-only server address. Instead, please direct your correspondence to the above office at OCR.Boston@ed.gov.
2. If you need to modify or supplement your complaint, please do not use the complaint form to submit another complaint with the new information. Instead, you may simply send an email to the office that has your complaint. Filing duplicative complaints may impede our ability to review your concerns in a timely manner. (If you have a separate complaint involving other matters, you may of course use this form to submit it.)
3. Remember that before OCR can process your complaint it must receive at the above address a signed copy of the Office for Civil Rights Consent Form, which you can obtain at <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/edlite-consentform.html>.
4. It is recommended that you print a copy of this message and retain it for your records.

The following information has been sent to the specified office:

OCR COMPLAINT FORM

1. Enter information about you.

Non Responsive

Your First Name:

Your Last Name:

Non Responsive

Your Address:

Non Responsive

City:

Non Responsive

State: MA

Zip Code:

Best Time to Call You: DAY

Primary Phone No:

Non Responsive

Alternative Phone No:

Non Responsive

Your Email Address:

2. Who else can we call if we cannot reach you?

Contact's Name:

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Daytime Phone No:

Relationship to you: Spouse

3. Who was discriminated against?

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4. What institution discriminated?

Institution Name: Amherst Regional Sch district

Address: 170 Chestnut Street

City: Amherst

State: MA

Zip Code: 01002

School or department involved: Amherst Regional Sch District

5. Have you tried to resolve the complaint through the institution's grievance process, due process hearing, or with another agency?

Yes

Agency Name: Amherst Sch District Reps

Date Filed: 06/14/10 (mm/dd/yyyy)

Status: A meeting involving SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Council) and the school district administration was held on 6/14/10 to discuss Special Education issues and concerns.

6. Describe the discrimination

OCR enforces regulations that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin; sex; disability; and/or age.

All that apply:

disability

retaliation

you filed a complaint or asserted your rights

Why you believe the discrimination was because of race, sex, disability, or whatever basis you indicated above or why you believe the action was retaliatory.

The former Special Education Director who is currently the interim Superintendent, Ms Maria Geryk invented "Meeting Norms" to target parents/guardians who advocate for their kids at IEP TEAM meetings. Parents often feel frustrated, silenced and intimidated. I am one of such parents. The meeting norms policy has created a hostile environment for me at my son IEP TEAM meetings. It is a retaliatory strategy used by Special Education personnel at the TEAM meetings to silence and prevent me from exercising my parental rights to advocate for my son educational services. It should be noted that the same meeting norms policy does not apply to parents who have non disabled kids when they attend Parent/Teacher Conference meetings to discuss their kids progress report. Also, the meeting norms policy is not consistently being implemented in ALL TEAM meetings and some schools within the district. Additional Comment: SEPAC Group was recently reactivated in April of 2010 after few years of inactivity. The newly formed SEPAC has specifically requested that the meeting norms be abolished because it is a Social Justice issue and a Civil Rights violation. All SEPAC meeting minutes can be accessed at [arps-sepac.info](http://arps-sepac.info) website. Some parents have expressed interest to file class action lawsuit as the meeting norms policy is a systemic issue and concern.

7. Your complaint must be filed within 180 days of the discriminatory action

When did the last act of discrimination occur?

Enter the date: 3/10/10 (mm/dd/yyyy)

Are you requesting a waiver of the 180-day filing time limit for discrimination that occurred more than 180 days before the filing of this complaint?

No.

8. What would you like the institution to do as a result of your complaint - what remedy are you seeking?

The Meeting Norms policy is illegal. It discriminates against parents who have kids with disabilities and especially to parents who advocate for their kids at the Amherst School District. It should be discontinued.

Do you have written information that you think will help us understand your complaint?

Yes