

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Student v. Regional School District No. 17

Appearing on behalf of the Parents: Parents, pro se

Appearing on behalf of the Regional School District No. 17: Atty. Rebecca R. Santiago,  
Shipman & Goodwin, LLP, One Constitution Plaza, Hartford, CT 06103-1919

Appearing before: Attorney Patricia M. Strong, Hearing Officer

**FINAL DECISION AND ORDER**

**ISSUES:**

1. Did the Board propose a free appropriate public education (FAPE) for the Student for the 2008-2009 school year?
2. Did the Board propose a FAPE for the Student for the 2008 extended school year?

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY:**

The Parents faxed a request for hearing to the State Department of Education ("SDE") on July 2, 2008. This Hearing Officer was assigned to the case on July 7, 2008. The Board received a copy of the hearing request on July 10, 2008. The Board's attorney filed an appearance on July 11, 2008. On July 16, 2008, the Parents filed an amended due process request adding an additional claim. A prehearing conference was held on July 17, 2008, with the Parents and the Board's attorney. The Board offered to mediate the case and the Parents agreed. Two hearing dates were agreed on for August 19 and 27, 2008. The mailing date for the final decision was set at September 23, 2008.

On July 23, 2008, the SDE notified the Hearing Officer that the parties did not reach agreement at the mediation and to proceed with the hearing. On August 12, 2008, the parties filed exhibits and witness lists. On that date, the Board's attorney, on behalf of both parties, requested a postponement of the August 19, 2008, hearing so that the parties could use the day to continue settlement discussions. The request was granted. On August 13, 2008, the Parents filed a rebuttal to the Board's July 18, 2008, answer to the complaint. On August 20, 2008, the Parents filed an additional exhibit. On August 25, 2008, the Parents faxed the Hearing Officer a letter stating that they had rejected the

Board's settlement offer, but wished to withdraw the hearing request without prejudice due to a personal family matter. On August 26, 2008, the Hearing Officer advised the parties that the August 27, 2008, hearing was canceled and that the case would be dismissed without prejudice unless the Board filed an objection by September 3, 2008. No objection was filed.

**FINAL DECISION AND ORDER:**

It is ordered that this case shall be dismissed without prejudice.