

CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Hartford, CT

STUDENTS : CASE NUMBER: 17-1
v. :
OXFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION : SEPTEMBER 16, 2016

Prehearing Conference Outline

A prehearing conference is an informal procedure where the Impartial Hearing Board meets with the parties before conducting the hearing. At this conference the Impartial Hearing Board will discuss administrative procedures and other matters as listed below. Note that the parties may be asked to restate their position on the record for any or all issues once the hearing begins.

The Impartial Hearing Board shall address the following matters:

1. Legal representation;
2. Petition of Appeal
 - a. Filing by proper person (Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) Section 10-186(b)(1));
 - b. Filing within 20 days (C.G.S. Section 10-186(b)(2));
3. Intervenors (C.G.S. Section 4-177a);
4. Interested Person (C.G.S. Section 4-177c);
5. Discovery (C.G.S. Section 4-177c);
6. Determination of issue;
7. Exchange of potential exhibits;
8. Exchange of potential witness lists;
9. Stipulation of facts;
10. Agreement on Content of Lower Record;
11. Name of Parties;
12. Mailing Address;
13. Order of Presentation and Administrative Procedure; and
14. Other pertinent matters

The prehearing conference has been scheduled for October 4, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the 1st Floor Conference Room of the Oxford Board of Education, 1 Great Hill Road, Oxford, CT 06478. The hearing will begin immediately following the conclusion of the pre-hearing conference.

/s/ Steven R. Rolnick
Impartial Hearing Board

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford, Connecticut

In The Matter of Students v. Oxford Board of Education
School Accommodations Case No. 17-1

Notice of Appellate Hearing Regarding Residency

Legal Authority for Hearing and Appointment of Impartial Hearing Board

Pursuant to and in accordance with C.G.S. Sections 10-186(b)(2), a hearing concerning the above-referenced person(s) is hereby scheduled. In accordance with C.G.S. Section 10-186(b)(2), this matter will be heard before an Impartial Hearing Board of the State Board of Education consisting of one or more persons who maintain the authority to render a final decision on behalf of the State Board of Education. Please be advised that Steven R. Rolnick has been appointed the Impartial Hearing Board and shall hear this appeal. The Impartial Hearing Board has been provided with a copy of the record.

Location of Hearing

Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-186(b)(2), the hearing shall be held in the local or regional school district in which the cause of the complaint arises. The hearing is scheduled as follows:

Date: **October 4, 2016**

Time: **10:00 a.m.**

Location: **1st Floor Conference Room**
 Oxford Board of Education
 1 Great Hill Road, Oxford, CT 06478

Allegations

The attached Petition of Appeal, received by the State Board of Education on September 1, 2016, expressly states the allegations made by the complaining party. (Refer to the Petition of appeal to ascertain the specific allegations).

Parties

The determination of the parties of interest shall be reviewed by the Impartial Hearing Board prior to or at the hearing. Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-186(b)(2), any party may request that the Impartial Hearing Board may join an interested party, or the Impartial Hearing Board, acting on its own motion, may join an interested party. The Impartial Hearing Board has no authority to make a determination of the rights and responsibilities of a Board of Education that is not a party to the hearing.

If the Board of Education has denied school accommodations on the basis of residency, the Board of Education should advise the Impartial Hearing Board as soon as possible of the Board of Education under whose jurisdiction it claims the student should be attending school.

Subject Matter of Hearing

The subject matter of this hearing is Students' appeal of the decision of the Oxford Board of Education as to the Students' residency. For a more complete statement see the attached Petition of Appeal.

Procedure

This hearing is held in accordance with C.G.S. Section 10-186, the contested case provisions of the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act. See C.G.S. Sections 4-176e to 4-183, inclusive.

Prior to conducting the appellate hearing at the above-referenced location, the Impartial Hearing Officer shall conduct a prehearing conference with the parties to review the procedure of the hearing and discuss any other matters raised by the parties.

If, after the hearing, the Impartial Hearing Board finds that any child is illegally or unreasonably denied school accommodations, the Impartial Hearing Board shall order the Board of Education under whose jurisdiction it has been found such child should be attending school to provide such accommodations. Except in the case of a residency determination, the finding of the local or regional board of education, subcommittee of such board, or a local impartial hearing board shall be upheld unless it is determined by the Impartial Hearing Board that the finding was arbitrary, capricious or unreasonable. In the case of a denial of schooling based on residency, the party denied schooling shall have the burden of proving residency by a preponderance of the evidence.

Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 4-177c, regarding discovery of information, each party shall be afforded the opportunity to inspect and copy relevant and material records, papers and documents in the possession of the other party. The parties should communicate with each other directly with regard to such inspection and copying. Also, regarding evidence offered at the hearing, each party has the right to present evidence and argument, examine witnesses, and review documents and other forms of evidence. Each party may conduct cross-examination, i.e. question the witness of another party, in order to produce a full and true disclosure of the facts. Also, the Impartial Hearing Board may examine witnesses.

In general, each party has the following rights:

1. To testify and produce witnesses and other evidence in support of his or her position and conduct cross-examination of other parties, intervenors and witnesses;
2. To be represented by a third party, including an attorney; and
3. To file a written request for a continuance of the hearing provided such request is filed at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the date and time of the hearing scheduled in this Notice of Appellate Hearing. Such request shall be entertained by the Impartial Hearing Board which may grant or deny the request.

Final Decision

The Impartial Hearing Board will render its final decision within forty-five days after receipt of the Petition of Appeal. In this case the Petition of the Appeal was received September 1, 2016. The final decision will contain findings of facts and conclusions of law which shall state the reasons on which the decision is based. The final decision of the Impartial Hearing Board may be appealed to the Superior Court in accordance with the provisions of C.G.S. Section 4-183, except venue shall be in the judicial district within which the local or regional school board is situated. See Conn. Gen. Stat. section 10-187 (2015).

Connecticut Department of Education
Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs

cc: Attorney Steven R. Rolnick, Impartial Hearing Board
Attorney William R. Connon for the Oxford Board of Education
Amanda Richards for the Appellant Students