

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Student v. Fairfield Board of Education

Appearing on behalf of the Parent:

Phillip Cohn, Esq.
Goldman, Gruder & Woods, LLC
200 Connecticut Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06854

Appearing on behalf of the Board:

Michelle Laubin, Esq.
Berchem, Moses & Devlin, PC
75 Broad Street
Milford, CT 06460

Appearing before:

Sylvia Ho, Esq.
Hearing Officer

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

ISSUES:

1. Did the Board provide FAPE for the two years prior to the filing of the Due Process Complaint?
2. Did the Board offer FAPE for ESY 2016 and/or the 2016-2017 school year?
3. Does Student require a therapeutic placement?
4. Does Student require a residential placement?
5. If 3 and 4, are in the affirmative, is Sandhill an appropriate placement?
6. If so, should parents be reimbursed for their costs for tuition and education related expenses at Sandhill?
7. Should parents be reimbursed for their expenses related to private evaluators?

PROCEDURAL HISTORY/SUMMARY:

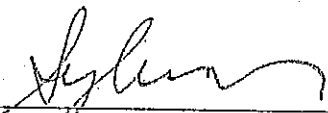
The Parent filed the Due Process Complaint and Request for Hearing on July 28, 2016 and a Hearing Officer was appointed on July 13, 2016. The Hearing Officer conducted a Prehearing Conference on August 10, 2016 and scheduled a hearing for October 5, 2016. On September 26, 2016, the Parent requested for an extension of the mailing date of the Final Decision and a postponement of the hearing so that the parties could continue to engage in good faith settlement negotiations after they failed to reach agreement at mediation. The request was granted and the hearing was postponed to October 31, 2016. The mailing date of the Final Decision was extended to November 10, 2016. The hearing convened on October 31, 2016. The Parent reported that the parties settled their dispute and requested that the matter be dismissed with prejudice.

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER:

The 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

Sylvia Ho

Hearing Officer Name in Print