

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Student v. Southington Board of Education

Appearing on behalf of the Parents: Mother, pro se

Appearing on behalf of the Southington Board of Education: Atty. Craig S. Meuser,  
Chinni & Meuser LLC, 30 Avon Meadow Lane, Avon, CT 06001

Appearing before: Attorney Patricia M. Strong, Hearing Officer

**FINAL DECISION AND ORDER**

**ISSUES:**

1. Did the Board propose a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to the Student for the 2008-2009 school year?
2. If not, should the Board be required to place the Student in a residential placement at Lighthouse Vocational Education Center?

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY:**

The Mother sent the Board a due process hearing request, which the Board received on June 26, 2008. The Board faxed a copy of the request to the State Department of Education ("SDE") on that date. This Hearing Officer was assigned to the case on July 2. A prehearing conference was held on July 25, 2008 with the Mother. The Board's Senior Coordinator of Special Education was not available to participate. The Mother reported that the parties had an advisory hearing on July 17 and that the Board's attorney would contact the Hearing Officer. A hearing date was agreed on for August 28. The mailing date for the final decision was set at September 9, 2008. On July 25, Atty. Meuser notified the Hearing Officer that the parties had reached a settlement agreement at the advisory hearing that would preclude the due process case from going forward until agreed upon evaluations were completed. The Hearing Officer sent a hearing notice and a letter to the parties advising them of the procedures for requesting a postponement of a hearing and that, if the evaluation process would take more than 30 days, the Parent could withdraw the hearing request without prejudice and refile it if necessary.

On August 26, the Parent faxed the Hearing Officer a letter stating that she had settled all pending disputes with the Board and wished to withdraw the hearing request

with prejudice. On August 27, the Hearing Officer advised the parties that the August 28 hearing was canceled and that the case would be dismissed.

**FINAL DECISION AND ORDER:**

It is ordered that this case shall be dismissed with prejudice.