



A [REDACTED] J <[REDACTED]>

Re: Redacted HIB report

1 message

Robert Presuto <robert.presuto@boontonschools.org>

Mon, Apr 22, 2019 at 7:15 PM

To: A [REDACTED] J [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Good evening Mr. J [REDACTED],

We have to follow the HIB statute (law) which does not provide for a "redo" of a Board hearing for an HIB appeal.

Said statute states your next recourse is to file an appeal with the NJ Commissioner of Education. At that point our school board attorney will be handling the district's determination/position on the matter.

Robert Presuto

On Mon, Apr 22, 2019 at 4:14 PM A [REDACTED] J [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Good afternoon Mr Presuto,

I am back from vacation myself, and received the report.

Is there a chance we might re-present our argument to the board, or is it required to go to the Commissioner if we are appealing that? There is information therein which we feel the board may not have adequately considered, and would like to address them.

Thank you,

A [REDACTED]

A [REDACTED] J [REDACTED]

On Mon, Apr 15, 2019 at 11:51 AM Robert Presuto <robert.presuto@boontonschools.org> wrote:

Mr. J [REDACTED],

Attached please find the redacted copy of the HIB investigation report.

We are out of the office this week but I will checking my work email. Thus if there is anything else you needf rom me, please feel free to email me.

Robert Presuto

On Tue, Apr 9, 2019 at 1:57 PM [REDACTED] J [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi Mr Presuto,

Ok, I understand, re wait.

As to documentation, I understand now. I didn't then, and I thought I understood last night, but yes - you did say only your office sends out redacted docs. No problem.

Thanks again,

A [REDACTED]

A [REDACTED] J [REDACTED]

On Tue, Apr 9, 2019 at 1:01 PM Robert Presuto <robert.presuto@boontonschools.org> wrote:

Mr. J [REDACTED],

Thank you for contacting me this morning.

I am conferring with our school board attorney regarding the procedural process of the HIB appeal hearing last evening. He is going to get back to me later this afternoon. There is a chance I will not have the determination for you regarding the appeal today. Please know this was followed up on this morning and I hope to have this information soon.

With regard to your second point above - you stated last night you were not aware you could ask for a redacted copy of your son's HIB investigation. Thus when you write that when you did ask for it you were told "Such should have been provided to us when we demanded it. Instead, it was denied based on privacy grounds", I explained to you that only my office receives and releases such redacted reports. I'm not sure if this is another document you are referring to or there was a misunderstanding regarding some aspect of the process, but when I asked you if you knew you could ask for a redacted copy after you presented your points to the BOE last evening, you said "No, I was not aware". The statement above completely refutes that. I also explained last night that we do not automatically prepare redacted copies of HIB reports as they are rarely requested. You are absolutely entitled to this information but only after the request is made to me for said information.

As such, I'm considering your email earlier today to be the written request to begin preparing and ultimately releasing a redacted copy of the HIB report. I will commence work on that directly and send you a copy as soon as it is ready.

With regard to your fourth point, parents are not allowed to "sit in" or be part of an HIB investigation. The South Orange/Maplewood School District has an extensive Anti-Bully Bill of Rights/HIB FAQ page which spells this out (#9) and is reiterated in every document I can find online regarding parents being present during HIB interviews:

<https://www.somsd.k12.nj.us/cms/lib/NJ01001050/Centricity/Domain/534/HIB%20FAQ%20-%20Final%20-%202010-30-17.pdf>

We also do not record HIB interviews and I am not aware of any school district which does as standard operating procedure.

Again, thank you for your follow up and I will get back to you as soon as I have more information for you.

Robert Presuto

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