

**LP, SR and AR on behalf of their
children L Doe, S Doe and A Doe, and
on behalf of a class of similarly situated
children in the Providence School District**

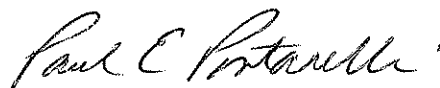
v.

Providence School District

Rulings on Motion to Recuse and Motion to Reopen the Hearing

Following the close of the stipulated record in this case and the parties' filing of legal memoranda, Petitioners submitted a letter summarizing how a settlement agreement between the United States Department of Justice and the Providence School District "resolves (or facilitates the resolution of) some of the pending issues, and which issues still remain to be resolved."¹ [footnote omitted]. Respondent filed an objection to the letter and a motion to recuse the hearing officer for being provided "improper and prejudicial information." Petitioners filed a response which included a motion to reopen the hearing for the sole purpose of having the Providence superintendent authenticate or repudiate the settlement agreement on the record.

As the designated hearing officer in this matter, I have avoided information regarding the United States Department of Justice and the Providence School District's English Language Learner program (including references in Petitioners' letter to the settlement agreement and the attached agreement itself). I am writing a decision based on the evidence in the record. I fail to see how a settlement agreement with the federal government is relevant to claims in this forum based on state law. Accordingly, the parties' respective motions are denied and the record in this case shall remain that which was agreed upon by the parties.



Paul E. Pontarelli
Hearing Officer

September 21, 2018

¹ Petitioners attached the settlement agreement to their letter.