

HOLLY GREENSTREET
AND BELINDA HUESMAN,
ET AL.

Appellants

v.

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Appellee.

BEFORE THE

MARYLAND

STATE BOARD

OF EDUCATION

Order No. OR 22-13

ORDER

Holly Greenstreet and Belinda Huesman, along with 18 other named individuals claiming to be Anne Arundel County Public School (“AACPS”) parents and/or teachers, filed this appeal challenging the Anne Arundel County Board of Education’s (“local board”) approval of revised school start and dismissal times for the 2022-2023 school year.¹ Appellants make various arguments opposing the decision, primarily related to implementation of the new plan and its effect on students, parents, teachers, bus drivers and crossing guards, and its effect on transportation, childcare, and after-school activities. Appellants also maintain that the local board ignored stakeholder feedback, and disregarded the request of the Anne Arundel County Council and the County Executive to delay the changes.

The local board filed a motion to dismiss the appeal for untimeliness. COMAR 13A.01.05.02B(1)(a) provides that an appeal to the State Board “shall be filed within 30 calendar days of the decision of the local board.” The local board rendered its decision at its October 20, 2021, public board meeting when it voted to approve the new school start and dismissal times.² (Bd. Motion, Ex. 3 at 3). The Appellants filed their appeal with the State Board on August 23, 2022, eight months after the local board’s decision. The filing is well beyond the prescribed 30-day filing deadline.

COMAR 13A.01.05.04B(2) allows the State Board to extend the 30-day filing deadline for fraud, lack of notice of the decision, or other extraordinary circumstances. Appellants request that the State Board extend the deadline in this matter based on “lack of notice to stakeholders, community partners, contracted service providers and families to make the necessary adjustments to support successful implementation of the new school start and dismissal time. . . .” (Appeal at 1). Appellants also request an extension of the deadline based on the local board’s alleged failure to follow Robert’s Rules in regard to a motion and to abide by a consultant’s recommendation regarding the school start and dismissal times.

¹ With some exceptions, school hours will start and end later than they had previously and will be banded by school level.

² The meeting minutes state the action as follows: “Based on the Board’s action at its June 2, 2021 meeting to implement healthier start times, Ms. Ellis moved that the implementation of the new start times be at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year; Ms. Schallheim seconded. The Board voted 8-0 to approve.” (Bd. Motion, Ex. 3 at 3).

Appellants appear to conflate arguments against the local board's decision with arguments to support their late filing. The local board's October 20, 2021, meeting was televised and livestreamed, and the recording was archived for public viewing. *See* <https://www.aacps.org/cable>. In addition, AACPS publicized information regarding implementation of the revised start times as early as February 9, 2022. (Bd. Motion, Ex. 2). None of the reasons cited by Appellants provides evidence of fraud, lack of notice of the decision, or other extraordinary circumstances to justify extension of the filing deadline.

Accordingly, it is this 6th day of December 2022, by the Maryland State Board of Education, ORDERED, that the appeal is dismissed for untimeliness. COMAR 13A.01.05.03B.

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Signature on File:

Clarence C. Crawford
President