

Kim Hapkin
Dir. of Pupil Services
Bristol Board of Education
Church Street
Bristol, CT 06010

Dear Mrs. Hapkin,

I am writing to you in regards to my son [REDACTED] who is currently attending [REDACTED]. He is also currently in the [REDACTED].

Last year when [REDACTED] was in [REDACTED] I was speaking to [REDACTED] because of the concerns about [REDACTED] behaviors, which were rolling on the floor, he couldn't focus and other students were now not wanting to be around him because of his behaviors. When discussing this with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] I was indicating that I have attended a support group, and I was told by a parent there that I could have a Neuropsychological Evaluation to get a better understanding in what [REDACTED] diagnosis was, and understand what services [REDACTED] would need. When I had mentioned this to both teachers they told me that "It was a good idea". "So I did." Because i felt as [REDACTED] parent I had to try to do everything I needed to help him get an appropriate education. That Evaluation was conducted on May 27, 2013.

Being a mother of a special needs child, and "new" to the whole special education system, I have learned the hard way, it is what we don't know that can hurt us.

If I had been informed properly by these teacher that you need to make a request in a formal PPT meeting, with a supervisor present. And had been informed that just because I go outside the school and have an independent evaluation, that the school didn't have to agree, they didn't have to accept it or they didn't have to pay for it, without going through the proper procedures, I would not have had the procedure performed without the understanding of the protocol.

What upsets me the most is that the teachers never advised me accordingly. There reaction as to "that's a good idea" has now left me with two problems. My insurance would only pay for a percentage of the total cost.

When I presented the evaluation on July 30th. [REDACTED] was present. She took the Evaluation. So I assumed that the school accepted it, was going to implement it, and also help me pay for it. Now I' m being told that that is not so.

The IEP For that meeting under the meeting and summary indicates this.... The results of the Neuropsychological Evaluation, was review, discussed and considered. Recommendations were considered by the PPT team. Diagnostic impressions: ADHD combined presentation, Autism Spectrum Disorder with accompanying intellectual impairment, borderline intellectual functioning. I can continue, but you have the IEP as well.

My questions and concerns are when I received the revised IEP, the front page under diagnosis did not change, or indicate clearly that it was accepted. This is where my confusion begins.

It was at this point that I felt that I needed an advisor to help me understand all the process of a PPT meeting. At that meeting [REDACTED] was the supervisor. When we brought up these concerns and questions he indicated that in his opinion, he could not agree or disagree, that we had to address this with the Director of Pupil Services. That protocol is that the school would need to conduct their own autism assessment and that we would have to discuss this with you further. We felt it was warranted to wait to see what the evaluations would come up with.

Mrs. Hapkin, I am asking for your support in helping our family pay the balance for this evaluation that our insurance will not cover. It would put an enormous financial burden on us if we had to pay for it. My husband and I are working very diligently to work with the school, we are taken [REDACTED] to outside services for speech and occupational services to get him the help that he needs and we are sharing all information with the school. Our goal is to continue to work within the school system to support the team for the what is appropriate for [REDACTED] individual educational program. Our goal is to help [REDACTED] to be successful in school and help him to develop to the best of his ability.

If you have further questions, or would like to speak to me personally. Please call me at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]