

S. P.

Appellant

v.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Appellee

BEFORE THE

MARYLAND

STATE BOARD

OF EDUCATION

Order No. OR11-08

ORDER

The Appellants seek an expedited review of the June 3, 2011 decision of Dr. William Hite that S.P. has not met the requirements to graduate or in the alternative, an order allowing S.P. to participate in the graduation ceremony and resolve all remaining issues thereafter.

We have reviewed Dr. Hite's decision and conclude that it is neither arbitrary, unreasonable, or illegal.

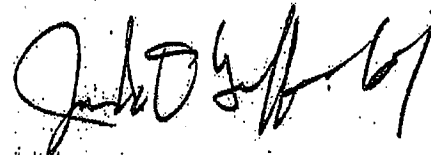
We recognize that a high school graduation ceremony is a memorable event in a student's life, but participation in such an event is not a constitutionally protected interest. *See, e.g., Williams v. Austin I.S.D.*, 796 F. Supp. 251, 255 (W.D. Tex. 1992); *Fowler v. Williamson*, 448 F. Supp. 497, 502 (W.D. N.C. 1978).

It is within a school system's discretion whether a student may or may not participate in a graduation ceremony. *Edgewood I.S.D. v. Paiz*, 856 S.W. 2d 269, 270 (Tex. App. 1993). Dr. Hite exercised that discretion determining that a student who has not completed all the required courses for graduation could not participate in the ceremony. In doing so, he had to consider what was in the best interest of S.P. as well as what was in the best interest of all the students at Oxon Hill High School. We will not second guess his decision.

It is this 8th day of June, Ordered that this expedited appeal be and is hereby dismissed.

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

By:



James H. DeGraffenreidt, Jr.
President