

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
AND  
PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

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DIANNE N,

vs.

NORTH SMITHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
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DECISIONS

Held: Change in bus stop must be  
denied.

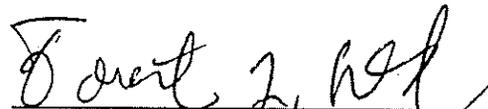
Date: June 25, 1993

The petitioner in this case is requesting us to order the North Smithfield School Committee to change a bus stop to reduce the distance her six year old daughter must walk to get the bus. We have had the opportunity to take a view and to hear testimony. We find the distance this child must walk to be only a few tenths of a mile, at most, in a pleasant residential neighborhood. Students at the bus stop wait in a fenced in park area.

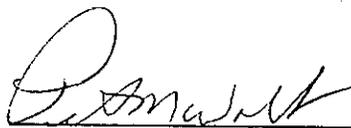
While the student must cross several small streets to get to the bus stop there is very little traffic in the neighborhood. The evidence in this case, therefore, compels us to rule in favor of the School Committee. The distance walked is short and the hazards along the roadway are minimal. Brown v. Elston, 445 A2d 279 (1982).

#### Conclusion

We must rule in favor of the North Smithfield School Committee and deny petitioner's request to change the bus stop.

  
Forrest L. Avila, Hearing Officer

Approved:

  
Peter McWalters  
Commissioner of Education

June 25, 1993

Date