

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
AND  
PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

COMMISSIONER OF  
EDUCATION

NORMAND AND SUSAN  
P.

vs.

WOONSOCKET SCHOOL  
COMMITTEE

DECISION

HELD: Students who are placed at the ninth grade "Annex" and who wish to participate in extracurricular activities at the highschool should be provided suitable transportation there or be reassigned to Woonsocket High School for their academic program so that they can fully participate in extracurricular programs.

January 27, 1993.

## DECISION

Pursuant to our prior decision in this matter, special visitor for the Commissioner, Louis E. DelPapa, has reported his findings on the educational program for 9th graders at the Woonsocket High School Annex.

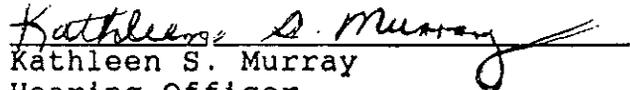
Mr. DelPapa, and his designee Stephen A. Nardelli, have found that the academic program in all respects complies with Basic Education Program requirements. This finding includes the sufficiency of library/media services provided to 9th grade students at this facility. Our prior decision assumed that the library at the middle school was not adequate to meet secondary school library requirements, and we therefore directed that Annex students be given access to the library at the high school and receive their library science instruction there. We find that, to the extent the middle school library continues to conform to secondary school library requirements, its use by Annex students is sufficient for BEP compliance.

We find also that, based on the special visitor's report, full compliance with extracurricular activities program requirements has not been achieved. Additional steps need to be taken to make the extracurricular program at Woonsocket High School fully accessible to any Annex students who wish to participate in after-school activities. While we do not wish to

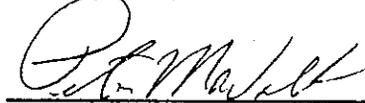
1. We assume that the special visitor's finding is based not just on numbers of volumes and annual expenditure levels but also on a determination of compliance with staffing requirements as set forth in Topic 26 of the BEP.
2. The special visitor's report indicates that "the difference in dismissal times and lack of transportation to the high school is still impeding full participation" in extracurricular activities. (Report 12/01/92 p. 2)

remove all flexibility from the school administrators in implementing additional measures, we direct that the Woonsocket School Department implement one of the following measures, within 30 days of the date of our decision:

1. provide suitable transportation for any student(s) who have elected to participate in extracurricular activities when that activity takes place at the high school.
2. reassign Annex students to Woonsocket High School for their academic program if they have elected to participate in extracurricular activities and their participation in those activities would be facilitated by their attendance at the high school.

  
Kathleen S. Murray  
Hearing Officer

APPROVED:

  
Peter McWalters  
Commissioner of Education

DATE: January 27, 1993