

CHAD EDWARDS,

Appellant,

v.

BALTIMORE COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Appellee.

BEFORE THE

MARYLAND

STATE BOARD

OF EDUCATION

Order No. OR24-12

ORDER

On April 26, 2024, the Appellant filed this State Board appeal of his disqualification as a school bus attendant for Baltimore County Public Schools (“BCPS”). Brad Kouyoumjian, Director, BCPS Department of Transportation, notified the Appellant of his disqualification by letter dated April 2, 2024. In that letter, Mr. Kouyoumjian mistakenly advised the Appellant that his next level of appeal was to the Maryland State Board of Education.

After receiving notice of the State Board appeal and recognizing the error, counsel for the local board advised the Appellant of the inaccuracy and explained that BCPS was interpreting his appeal to the State Board as an appeal to the local superintendent. (Howie Letter, 5/21/24). Counsel advised the Appellant to contact Charles Smith, Manager of Employee Appeals, to pursue the matter further. *Id.* Counsel, on behalf of the local board, also filed a motion to dismiss the State Board appeal as there is no local board decision for the State Board to review. (Motion). The Appellant has responded that he has since contacted Mr. Smith’s office and the matter was scheduled for a hearing. (Appellant’s Reply).

The Appellant’s appeal remains pending before the local superintendent and there is no final decision by the local board for the State Board to review. Pursuant to Education Article §4-205(c)(3) and COMAR 13A.01.05.03B(1)(a), the State Board may dismiss an appeal if the local board has not issued a final decision. *See Pugh v. Prince George’s Cnty. Bd. of Educ.*, MSBE Order No. OR23-19 (2023); *Evans v. Prince George’s Cnty. Bd. of Educ.*, MSBE Order No. 23-12 (2023); *S.F. and K.F. v. Montgomery Cnty. Bd. of Educ.*, MSBE Order No. OR23-09 (2023); *Victor and Sandra B. v. Anne Arundel Cnty. Bd. of Educ.*, MSBE Order No. OR20-11 (2020).

Therefore, it is this 25th day of June 2024, ORDERED, by the Maryland State Board of Education, that the appeal is dismissed without prejudice because it is not ripe for review.

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Signature on File:

Clarence C. Crawford
President