

LAKESHA W.

Appellant

v.

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF
EDUCATION,

Appellee

BEFORE THE

MARYLAND

STATE BOARD

OF EDUCATION

Order No. OR08-12

ORDER OF DISMISSAL

In this appeal, Appellant challenges the decision of Daniel J. Michaels, Director of Secondary Education for the Howard County Public School System, upholding the suspensions of her daughter, L.W.

By letter dated May 16, 2008, Mr. Michaels denied Appellant's request to reverse two suspensions. Appellant wrote to Mr. Michaels on June 5 expressing her disagreement with his decision. He responded on June 13, advising her of her right to appeal his decision to Linda T. Wise, Assistant Superintendent.

Meanwhile, on June 11, 2008, Appellant filed an appeal with the State Board asking that the suspensions be reversed and expunged from L.W.'s education record.

There is no local board decision in this case. Appellant appealed the suspensions to Mr. Michaels. He specifically advised Appellant of her right to appeal his decision to the Assistant Superintendent. Appellant did not file any such appeal. Thus, she failed to exhaust the administrative remedy available to her.

The State Board has consistently declined to address issues that have not been reviewed initially by the local board. See *McDaniel v. Montgomery County Board of Education*, MSBE Op. No. 03-22; *Craven v. Board of Education of Montgomery County*, 7 Op. MSBE 870 (1997); *Hart v. Board of Education of St. Mary's County*, 7 Op. MSBE 740 (1997).

Therefore, it is this 30th day of August, 2008, by the Maryland State Board of Education,

ORDERED, that the appeal referenced above be and the same is hereby dismissed for

failure to exhaust administrative remedies. See COMAR 13A.01.05.03C(1)(a).

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James H. DeGraffenreid, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

James H. DeGraffenreid, Jr.

President