

“The standard for review by the State Board of Education is that if there is any evidence to support the decision of the local board of education, then the local board’s decision will stand unless there has been an abuse of discretion or the decision is so arbitrary and capricious as to be illegal. See, Ransum v. Chattooga County Bd. of Educ., 144 Ga. App. 783, 242 S.E.2d 374 (1978); Antone v. Greene County Bd. of Educ., Case No. 1976-11 (Ga. SBE, Sep. 8, 1976).” Roderick J. v. Hart Cnty. Bd. of Educ., Case No. 1991-14 (Ga. SBE, Aug. 8, 1991).

In the instant case, there was evidence that several people evaluated Appellant and found similar deficiencies. Appellant’s primary teaching technique was the lecture method, but he failed to involve his students. As a result, they became disruptive and Appellant had the highest number of disciplinary referrals in the school. Appellant also refused to use disciplinary referral slips when he sent students to the principal’s office, even though the principal had directed all teachers to use them. Appellant either refused or was incapable of accepting the improvement suggestions made by the principal and other administrators. The State Board of Education concludes that there was evidence to support the Local Board’s decision.

Appellant also claims that the Local Board erred in permitting evidence of evaluations made in previous years to be admitted at the hearing. Such evidence, however, only established that other principals had similar problems with Appellant, thus negating his charge that his current principal had a special bias against him. The State Board of Education concludes that there was no error in admitting into evidence the prior years’ evaluations.

Based upon the foregoing, it is the opinion of the State Board of Education that there was evidence to support the Local Board’s decision and the Local Board did not commit error in the conduct of the hearing. The Local Board’s decision, therefore, is SUSTAINED.

This 14th day of January, 1997.

Mr. Larry Thompson
Vice Chairman for Appeals