## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

## **STATE OF GEORGIA**

J. L. C.,

Appellant, : CASE NO. 1996-58

vs. :

: DECISION

STEPHENS COUNTY:

BOARD OF EDUCATION,

:

Appellee. :

This is an appeal by J. L. C. (Student) from a decision by the Stephens County Board of Education (Local Board) that upheld the decision of the Student's principal not to allow her to attend a summer cheerleading camp because of his fear that the high-impact activities of the camp would injure her in her pregnant condition. The appeal is dismissed because the issues raised are moot since the summer camp is over.

The Student, who is sixteen years old, became pregnant during the spring of the 1995-1996 school year. She was permitted to continue her cheerleading activities after the principal received assurance from the Student's doctor that such activities would not harm her, and the Student's mother wrote that the Student could continue with low-impact activities.

The Student asked to go to the summer cheerleading camp. The principal denied the Student permission because he thought the high-impact activities of the camp did not fall within the permissions granted to the Student by her doctor and mother. The camp was held in June, 1996, and the State Board of Education is unable to grant the Student any relief The Student's child has been born and the Student is free to return to her cheerleading activities. The issues raised by the Student, therefore, are moot.

Even if the issues were not moot, the principal's decision was not arbitrary or capricious. The principal acted with the best information available to him at the time and his concern was to avoid injury to the Student. The Student's doctor was unavailable to provide a permission slip before the start of the camp and the principal was unwilling to accept a written statement prepared by the doctor's staff without the doctor's knowledge. The principal made every effort to accommodate the Student; he only sought to avoid any harm to the Student.

Because the issues raised are moot, the appeal is hereby DISMISSED.

This 16<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1997.

Mr. Larry Thompson Vice Chairman for Appeals