

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**STATE OF GEORGIA**

<b>LORI ADGER,</b>	:	
	:	
<b>Appellant,</b>	:	
	:	
<b>vs.</b>	:	<b>CASE NO. 2004-13</b>
	:	
<b>PAULDING COUNTY</b>	:	
<b>BOARD OF EDUCATION,</b>	:	
	:	
<b>Appellee.</b>	:	<b>DECISION</b>

This is an appeal by Lori Adger (Appellant) from a decision by the Paulding County Board of Education (Local Board) not to take any action against a principal following Appellant's charges of negligence by the principal. The appeal is dismissed because the State Board of Education does not have jurisdiction.

The main claims by Appellant are that the principal was negligent (1) in investigating whether another parent assaulted her child on a bus, (2) in investigating whether other parents made racially derogatory statements to her at Parent-Teachers Association meetings, (3) in failing to provide her with the Local Board's grievance procedures, (4) in talking to her child in an "energetic tone," (5) in failing to take measures to address racial tensions in the school, and (6) in permitting students to wear clothing bearing racially offensive language.

Local boards of education can sit as tribunals to determine matters of local controversy concerning the construction or administration of school law and the parties have the right to appeal to the State Board of Education if they disagree with the local board's decision. O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1160. Essential to the State Board of Education's jurisdiction to review a local board's decision is a case or controversy concerning the construction or administration of school law.

In the instant appeal, none of the issues raised by Appellant involve the construction or administration of school law. Instead, each of the issues concerns the internal administration of the school system, which is uniquely the province of the local board of education. "... [T]he members of the county board, being familiar with the local conditions and circumstances, are in a better position to adjust local matters to existing conditions than the State board, which is far removed." *Boney v. County Board of Education for Telfair County*, 203 Ga. 152, 155, 45 S.E.2d 442 (1947).

There is no school law that requires a local board of education to take action against a principal based upon a parent's dissatisfaction with the principal's performance.

Based upon the foregoing, it is the opinion of the State Board of Education that the allegations made by Appellant do not involve the administration or interpretation of school law and the State Board of Education does not have jurisdiction to review the Local Board's decision. Accordingly, the Local Board's decision is AFFIRMED.

This 14<sup>th</sup> day of November 2003.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wanda T. Barrs". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Wanda T. Barrs  
Chairperson - State Board of Education