

Update of Woodland Lawsuit

Yesterday, our legal team appeared before Judge Allen in the Cook County Court to argue the Defendants' *Motion to Reconsider* his order overturning PCCS's renewal certification. The argument on the *Motion to Reconsider* was one that argued that the Court did not have subject matter jurisdiction to have issued its order overturning PCCS's certification because Woodland did not file a complaint within 35 days of ISBE's certification in accordance with the Administrative Review Law. Since Woodland did not appeal ISBE's certification, which affirms the Commission's decision as being compliant with the Charter Law, the Court had no jurisdiction to enter his prior order reversing the certification of PCCS's renewal charter solely on the Commission's decision and without considering ISBE's certification.

Unfortunately, Judge Allen again showed his lack of understanding on Charter School Law and his distaste for Public Schools of choice and as a result this argument fell on a less than analytical jurist. Within the first three minutes of the oral argument concerning the *Motion to Reconsider*, the Court called the statutory confines that control the issue "mumbo jumbo". In the end, the Court spoke much of the same as the previous hearings and denied the *Motion to Reconsider* finding that the Commission's decision was "Final" but also that ISBE does have to certify. While it appears that, these two statements are inherently inconsistent nonetheless, the Judge ruled to deny the motion. It was obvious that Judge Allen was biased, wanted to spend no time hearing this case and thus his ruling was at times incoherent, inarticulate, and lacking in legal analysis. Further, most Judges do not like to reverse themselves to avoid any appearance that the Judge committed an error.

After that ruling, the Court summarily denied the *Motion to Stay* enforcement of the order without hearing any oral argument. Since it was apparent that the Judge did not want to deal with the motion for stay, he instructed our legal team to file our motion for stay with the Appellate Court, which we anticipated and will begin doing so now.

As stated in previous communications and acknowledged by the Judge, because this is a case of first impression, regardless of what Judge Allen ruled, it was expected that either Plaintiff or Defendants would appeal the case to the Illinois Appellate Court.

We will begin to prepare and file a notice of appeal on all the issues as well as a motion to stay with the Illinois Appellate Court. Although the notice of appeal is due in 30 days from the Judge's June 11, 2015 decision, our team is working on filing the appeal and the motion to stay as soon as practicable.

Regardless of what statements Woodland may release, PCCS will be open in 2016 and anticipates remaining open at a minimum through our charter agreement through 2019 and beyond.

Yesterday's court appearance in front of Judge Allen was a necessary step in the process to allow the case to be heard by the Illinois Appellate Court. The appeal process will take a minimum of 9 months and could last for a year or more before the Appellate Court issues its final decision.

