

GREGORY SUTTON
Appellant

v.

SOMERSET COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION,
Appellee

ORDER OF THE

MARYLAND

STATE BOARD

OF EDUCATION

Order No. OR17-08

ORDER

Appellant, Gregory Sutton, appeals the decision of the Somerset County Board of Education (“local board”) to terminate him from his position as Supervisor of Transportation and Operations for the school system after he allowed a disqualified bus driver to operate a school bus to transport students.¹ Appellant claims in his appeal that the local board terminated him based on race discrimination.

The Appellant has also filed suit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland asserting a claim under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that the local board terminated him based on race discrimination. *See Sutton v. Somerset County Board of Education*, Case No. 1:17-cv-00504-ELH. Because the State Board appeal contains facts and issues that are nearly identical to the District Court case, we find that a stay of the State Board proceedings is appropriate here. Redundant proceedings with the State Board and the District Court would not serve the purpose of judicial economy and would be a waste of resources.

Therefore, it is this 18th day of July, 2017 by the Maryland State Board of Education,

ORDERED, that the appeal referenced above is hereby stayed until such time that the District Court rules on the discrimination claim.

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Signature on File:

Andrew R. Smarick
President

¹ We note that allowing a disqualified bus driver to operate a school bus is an egregious error for an employee in the Appellant’s position. The Supervisor of Transportation and Operations is ultimately responsible for ensuring the safe operation of the school system’s transportation services and entrusted with protecting the safety and well-being of students who use those services. Assigning a disqualified bus driver to operate a school bus places students at serious risk of injury and creates liability issues for the school system.