

June Peoples  
September 4, 2008

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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
BUREAU OF SPECIAL EDUCATION APPEALS

BSEA No. 08-3060

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ROSE L., \*

Student \*

vs. \*

LEXINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS, \*

School District \*

\*\*\*\*\*

DEPOSITION OF: JUNE PEOPLES

99 High Street

Boston, Massachusetts

September 4, 2008 10:15 a.m.

Laura Naylor

Registered Professional Reporter

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1 A. I was not aware of the facility in  
2 which they were incarcerating my child.  
3 Q. Were you aware that there was a  
4 thinking chair in the room when Rose began to  
5 display behaviors that were disruptive in class  
6 that she was taken to?  
7 A. Yes.  
8 Q. Were you aware of the fact that the  
9 behavior plan had some other alternatives prior  
10 to her being removed to a room outside of the  
11 school, outside of the classroom?  
12 A. Yes.  
13 Q. How did you become aware that Rose  
14 or come to the conclusion that Rose was locked in  
15 the room?  
16 A. I received a call from the principal  
17 one day in January. And she said you have to  
18 come to the school. Your daughter has taken off  
19 her clothes and she has urinated on the floor and  
20 she is walking around in her urine. And you have  
21 to come to the school and tell her if she is  
22 going to be in school she has to keep her clothes  
23 on.  
24 Q. That is what the principal said to

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1 you?  
2 A. Yes.  
3 Q. Did you go to the school?  
4 A. I did.  
5 Q. What happened that day?  
6 A. At that point they had gotten Rose  
7 dressed in a spare pair of clothing, and I took  
8 her home.  
9 Q. Had you had any E-mails prior --  
10 were you in the process of E-mail communication  
11 with the teacher during most of the --  
12 A. Yes.  
13 MR. HEFFERNAN: Wait for a complete  
14 question.  
15 THE WITNESS: Yes.  
16 Q. (By Ms. Stein) During that  
17 kindergarten, during that period she was in  
18 kindergarten?  
19 A. Yes.  
20 Q. Had you been told of other times  
21 that she had been in a timeout room?  
22 MR. HEFFERNAN: Objection.  
23 Q. (By Ms. Stein) Were you aware that  
24 she was in the time out room any time prior to

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1 the phone call that you got from the principal in  
2 early January?  
3 A. I did not understand what the room  
4 was. I had no idea. It never occurred to me  
5 that they would put her in a place like that. I  
6 envisioned her time outs as being time outs  
7 perhaps like she had at home where she went into  
8 a room, an empty classroom that had pictures of  
9 kitty cats on the wall or something and someone  
10 sat with her and talked with her and tried to  
11 calm her down. It never in my wildest  
12 imagination ever occurred to me that they would  
13 lock her in a place like that.  
14 Q. Was it your belief that she was  
15 locked into a room? Is that what you are saying?  
16 A. She was put in the room alone. The  
17 aide was instructed to stand with her back to the  
18 door. And I asked at a meeting what would Rose  
19 do? And she said Rose would beat and kick and  
20 scream at the door and cry.  
21 I said, what were you instructed to  
22 do? She said I was instructed to ignore her and  
23 to not look in at her so as not to reinforce her  
24 negative behavior. That is as close as being

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1 locked in a room as I could imagine. Rose  
2 couldn't get out. She was in there alone.  
3 Q. After the incident in January that  
4 you just described to me, did Rose ever return to  
5 school?  
6 A. Yes.  
7 Q. She went back to school?  
8 A. The next day.  
9 Q. What is your recollection about what  
10 happened then?  
11 A. On the way home in the car that day  
12 after I picked her up at school I said to her  
13 what happened, honey? Why did you take your  
14 clothes off? And why did you wet your pants?  
15 And Rose has trouble with language,  
16 so it is very hard for her to express herself.  
17 But she said really clearly, she said mommy, they  
18 put me in that room again. And every time they  
19 put me in that room I get scared and I wet my  
20 pants. I took off my clothes because I get  
21 embarrassed. I get embarrassed, and I didn't  
22 want to wet my pants. I am sorry. This is very  
23 painful.  
24

17 (Pages 62 to 65)