

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA
SOUTH BEND DIVISION**

TERESA RHOADES, ET AL.,)	
)	
Plaintiff(s),)	
)	
v.)	CAUSE NO. 3:05cv586-JTM
)	
PENN-HARRIS-MADISON)	
SCHOOL CORPORATION,)	
)	
Defendant(s).)	

SCHEDULING ORDER AND MEMORANDUM OF STATUS CONFERENCE

In accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f), a Rule 16 Preliminary Pretrial Conference was held telephonically on December 7, 2006, plaintiff(s) were represented by John R. Price and defendant(s) were represented by Marsha Volk Bugall; Robert Palmer.

1. Pre-Discovery Disclosures. The parties have exchanged the information required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1).

2. Discovery Plan.

The last date for the completion of all discovery is **July 30, 2007**.

Each party may serve a maximum of 50 interrogatories and 50 requests for admission on any other party.

Each party may conduct a maximum of 7 depositions, limited to maximum of 4 hours, unless extended by agreement of parties.

The serving of reports from retained experts under Rule 26(a)(2) are due from plaintiff(s) by **March 30, 2007**; and from defendant(s) by **May 30, 2007**.

Any evidentiary objections to another party's expert witness, whether directed to the witness's qualifications or to the foundation for the anticipated testimony, shall be filed **August 30, 2007**. Failure to file such objections is waiver of any objection to opinion testimony outlined in the statement filed by the witness's proponent.

Supplementation under Rule 26(e) due every **six weeks** until trial.

3. Other Items.

The last date for the parties to amend the pleadings without leave of court is **December 18, 2006**. Thereafter, any amendments to the pleadings must be by motion and leave of court.

The date for the filing of all potentially dispositive motions is **August 30, 2007**.

The timing of filing pretrial disclosures under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26 (a)(3) shall be governed by separate order.

The parties have agreed upon **Tom Lemon** as mediator.

SO ORDERED.

Dated this December 7, 2006.

s/ Christopher A. Nuechterlein
Christopher A. Nuechterlein
United States Magistrate Judge

EXPLANATION OF SCHEDULING ORDER:

This explanation attempts to resolve ambiguities that have arisen in the past concerning the meaning of deadlines and other issues. The scheduling order must be enforced to allow the orderly handling of all the cases on the court's docket. Accordingly, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b) and § 2.03(g) of this court's Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan, the deadlines will be modified only for good cause shown. This explanation of the scheduling order is meant to assist you in preparing the case within those deadlines, without running afoul of any misinterpretation.

A. Discovery.

1. Time limit for discovery requests. All discovery other than depositions must be initiated at least forty-five days before the cut-off date. A deposition commenced at least five days before the cut-off date may continue beyond the cut-off date. Notices of deposition shall be served on opposing counsel at least fifteen days before the deposition date.

2. Extensions of Time. Pursuant to a standing order of the court, parties may stipulate to a single extension of time, not to exceed thirty days, to respond to a discovery request. You may inform the court of such a stipulation by letter; no motion or form of order is required.

3. Discovery disputes. Fed. R. Civ. P. 1 requires that the rules of procedure be construed to secure the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of every action. Accordingly, discovery should be consistent with the needs and importance of the case, and be so conducted as to minimize the burden of discovery and concentrate on issues genuinely in dispute. You should be able to resolve substantially all discovery disputes without the court's intervention or assistance. You should note District Rule 37.1 concerning the obligation of counsel to confer before enlisting the court's assistance under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26 or 37. The judge may be available for telephonic resolution of discovery disputes without prior written motion, but anticipates that such a need will arise infrequently. To allow the court's compliance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c) and 37(a)(4) in the event a discovery dispute reaches the court, you should be prepared to state, in terms of hours expended and hourly rate, the fees and expenses incurred with respect to the discovery issue.

B. Other matters.

1. Modification of order; continuances. Continuances or extensions of time with respect to the deadlines for amendments, discovery, and dispositive motions will be granted only upon a convincing showing of good cause, upon a request made before the pertinent deadline has expired. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b); Civil Justice Plan § 2.03(g). Lack of diligence or failure to comply with the scheduling order cannot be considered good cause. Absent disabling circumstances, the deadline for completion of discovery will not be extended unless there has been active discovery. Stipulations for extensions will be considered, of course, but, without more, do not amount to good cause for an extension of a deadline. A motion to extend the discovery deadline should set forth (a) a statement of the discovery completed, (b) a specific description of the discovery that remains to be done, (c) a statement of the reason(s) discovery was not completed within the time allowed, and (d) a proposed schedule for the completion of the remaining discovery.

2. Briefing schedules. The briefing schedule set forth in District Rule 7.1 shall apply to all motions, other than motions for enlargement of time and summary judgment motions. In other words, the response to any motion (other than for enlargement of time or for summary judgment) shall be due not more than fifteen days after service of the motion, and the movant's reply shall be due not later than seven days after service of the response. If you do not intend to file a response or reply, please inform the courtroom deputy clerk, Sharon Macon (574-246-8104), so that no unnecessary delay arises from awaiting a brief that will not be filed. The briefing schedule for summary judgment motions is set forth in subsection C above. The court will presume that motions for enlargement of time (other than for extension of the deadlines set forth in this order) will not be opposed; if you intend to oppose a request for enlargement of time, notify the courtroom deputy clerk immediately.

3. Settlement. The court encourages counsel to pursue the possibility of settlement vigorously during the entire pendency of this action, through and including the end of trial.

Private negotiations are the most cost-effective approach to settlement. Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan, § 4.01.

4. Further conferences or hearings. Hearings on motions will be scheduled as needed. If lengthy discovery has been allowed, interim status conferences may be scheduled to monitor the case's progress and address any issues that may have arisen.

Form 120106