

Office of the Chief Operating Officer

SENT VIA E-MAIL

October 20, 2020

RE: Letter of Response for Grievance #3355 filed on September 16, 2019

Dear

In accordance with Chapter 25 Subtitle 5-B, Section 2405 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations, D.C. Public Schools (DCPS) Comprehensive Alternative Resolution and Equity (CARE) team has completed its review of the above referenced written grievance.

## **Grievance Issues**

Based on a review of the information provided, the written grievance raised the following issue under the jurisdiction of this office:

1. **5-B DCMR 2405.2 (e)**: Where a student is a victim of bullying or harassment, including sexual harassment. You reported that Student was being bullied.

## **Review Procedure**

The review included information from the following individuals:

Parent of Student
Dean of Students
Parent of Student B
United Student B

During the review, DCPS CARE was unable to obtain consent and/or reach Student and Student B for an interview.

The review also included the following which were either submitted by the complainant, submitted by the school, or accessible via DCPS data systems:

1. SBT – DCPS student behavior database



Screenshot of text messages from Student B to unknown recipient regarding Student



DCPS Bullying Prevention Policy

## General Finding of Fact

The following findings of fact resulted from the review:

1. You reported to DCPS CARE that Student B made threats regarding Student via text message.

2. DCPS CARE obtained screenshots of messages between Student B and an unknown student. In the screenshots, Student B stated, **Student B** stated, **StudentB** stated, **Student B** stated,

3. The screenshots show additional threats such as,

4. There is an SBT infraction for Student B dated **sector states of the student o** 

5. You reported to DCPS CARE that there was a mediation on the second but that issues with Student B continued to escalate and that there was another incident on the second but that issues in which Student B's sister was taunting Student

6. There is an SBT infraction for Student and dated account of the for bullying, or using humiliating, or intimidating language or behavior including internet bullying. You reported to DCPS CARE that the school was not taking into consideration that Student had reacted to being bullied.

7. Student was withdrawn from on

8. On the students reported to DCPS CARE that the school attempted to have restorative circles [with Student and Student B] which included the parents but that you decided not to participate. Additionally, **Student** reported that there were no further issues between the students as the year moved forward.

## Discussion/Conclusion

1. As it relates to the concern that Student was bullied, DCPS CARE finds that 5-B DCMR 2405.2(e) is substantiated. You reported that Student B made threats against Student DCPS CARE corroborated your allegations through text message screenshots that were obtained during the review. Following the text messages, disciplinary action was taken. Based on a preponderance of the evidence, it is more likely than not that Student B bullied Student and a defined by the DCPS Bullying Prevention Policy. DCPS CARE was unable to interview Student and or Student B.

has taken the following actions as a result of these allegations:

- 1. Appropriate Chapter 25 disciplinary infractions were administered.
- 2. In Student Student and Student B participated in a restorative circle.

If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you have the right to file an appeal. Appeals must be submitted in writing and received within 10 calendar days of receipt of this notice. Please submit appeal requests to the Office of Integrity via U.S. Postal Mail to 1200 First St., NE, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Attn: ClO or via email at <u>dcps.cio@k12.dc.gov.</u> You may also contact the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (1-800-421-3481) to report any educational discrimination.

Sincerely,



Cc: Principal Instructional Superintendent