



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Chief Operating Officer

SENT VIA REGULAR MAIL

October 19, 2020

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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

Dear [REDACTED]

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. It was reported that Student A was being bullied.

Review Procedure

The review included information from the following individuals:

1. Parent of Student A
2. [REDACTED] Dean of Students
3. Parent of Student [REDACTED]
4. [REDACTED]

During the review, DCPS CARE was unable to obtain consent and/or reach Student A and Student [REDACTED] 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
2. Screenshot of text messages from Student [REDACTED] to unknown recipient regarding Student A
3. DCPS Bullying Prevention Policy

General Finding of Fact

The following findings of fact resulted from the review:

1. It was reported to DCPS CARE that Student [REDACTED] made threats regarding Student A via text message.
2. DCPS CARE obtained screenshots of messages between Student [REDACTED] and an unknown student. In the screenshots, Student [REDACTED] stated, [REDACTED]. The parent of Student A reported and DCPS CARE confirmed that Student [REDACTED] resides on [REDACTED].
3. The screenshots show additional threats such as, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].
4. There is an SBT infraction for Student [REDACTED] dated [REDACTED] for bullying, or using humiliating, or intimidating language or behavior including internet bullying.
5. The parent of Student A reported to DCPS CARE that there was a mediation on [REDACTED] but that issues with Student [REDACTED] continued to escalate and that there was another incident on [REDACTED] in which Student [REDACTED] sister was taunting Student A.
6. There is an SBT infraction for Student A dated [REDACTED] for bullying, or using humiliating, or intimidating language or behavior including internet bullying. The parent of Student A reported to DCPS CARE that the school was not taking into consideration that Student A had reacted to being bullied.
7. Student A was withdrawn from [REDACTED].
8. On [REDACTED], Dean of Students reported to DCPS CARE that the school attempted to have restorative circles [with Student A and Student [REDACTED] which included the parents but that the parent of Student A decided not to participate. Additionally, [REDACTED] 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 A was bullied, DCPS CARE finds that 5-B DCMR 2405.2(e) is substantiated. The parent of Student A reported that Student [REDACTED] made threats against Student A. DCPS CARE corroborated the 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 [REDACTED] bullied Student A as defined by the DCPS Bullying Prevention Policy. DCPS CARE was unable to interview Student A or Student [REDACTED].

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

1. Appropriate Chapter 25 disciplinary infractions were administered.
2. In [REDACTED] Student A and Student [REDACTED] 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, 10th Floor, Attn: CIO or via email at dcps.cio@k12.dc.gov. You may also contact the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (1-800-421-3481) to report any educational discrimination.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.A smaller black rectangular redaction box covering the name of the sender.

Cc: Principal
Instructional Superintendent