



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Chief Operating Officer

VIA REGULAR MAIL

November 7, 2019



RE: Letter of Response for Written Grievance #3427 filed on October 15, 2019

Dear [REDACTED]:

In accordance with Chapter 24 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 issues 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 is alleged that after-school program organizer, [REDACTED] sent Student A and Student [REDACTED] a link through the social media application Group-me that contained a pornographic website. These allegations fall under Federal Title IX Law of the Education Amendment of 1972 ("Title IX"). Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex which includes sexual harassment and sexual violence.

Review Procedure

The review included interviews with the following individuals:

1. [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Principal
2. [REDACTED], DCPS Office of Family and Public Engagement School Partnerships Manager
3. [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Founder

DCPS attempted to interview Student [REDACTED]. DCPS CARE made multiple attempts to contact you via telephone to obtain consent to interview Student [REDACTED]. However, DCPS CARE was unable to speak with you to obtain your consent. DCPS Attempted to interview Student A. DCPS was unable to obtain consent to speak with Student A.

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

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1. Written Statement from [REDACTED]
 2. DCPS CARE conducted a review of after-school program organizer, [REDACTED]'s GroupMe account and other [REDACTED] related social media. This review included:
 - a. GroupMe groups of which [REDACTED] is a member;
 - b. The group [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] invited students to join;
 - c. Students who are in [REDACTED]'s GroupMe group;
 - d. [REDACTED]'s social media accounts and messaging including Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn
 - e. Announcement e-mails sent from [REDACTED] to students

DCPS CARE followed links contained in any of the above-referenced accounts. DCPS CARE did not previously inform [REDACTED] that a review of related social media accounts would be conducted at the scheduled meeting.

General Findings of Fact

The following findings of fact resulted from the investigation:

1. [REDACTED] is the founder of the [REDACTED].
2. [REDACTED] started working in [REDACTED] during the 2019-2020 School Year.
3. [REDACTED] is not approved through the DCPS Office of Family and Public Engagement School Partnerships Division.
4. [REDACTED] obtained a DCPS background check and security clearance through DCPS on September 11, 2019.
5. [REDACTED] attended [REDACTED] on October 4, 2019 and conducted a session for students regarding [REDACTED].
6. [REDACTED] reported Student A attended the October 4, 2019 [REDACTED] session at [REDACTED]
7. [REDACTED] did not report that reported Student [REDACTED] attended the October 4, 2019 [REDACTED] session at [REDACTED]
8. DCPS CARE observed that [REDACTED] started the group [REDACTED] GroupMe group on September 27, 2019.
9. On October 4, 2019 at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] shared information on how students can connect with [REDACTED] on GroupMe and other social media accounts, including the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] GroupMe group.
10. DCPS CARE observed that one student, Student C, joined the GroupMe account titled [REDACTED] [REDACTED] on October 31, 2019.
11. DCPS CARE did not observe Student [REDACTED] or Student B join the [REDACTED] GroupMe group.
12. DCPS CARE did not observe any pornographic website sent in the [REDACTED] GroupMe group.

Discussion/Conclusion

As a result of this review, DCPS has found the following:

1. DCPS CARE finds that 5-B DCMR 2405.2 (e) is unsubstantiated. DCPS CARE conducted a review of [REDACTED]'s [REDACTED]-related social media accounts, including the GroupMe account which was alleged to have sent the pornographic website. There was no evidence to suggest that a pornographic

website was sent to students. Additionally, there was no evidence to suggest that Student [REDACTED] or Student B were members of the GroupMe group [REDACTED] or have been in the past. DCPS CARE attempted to interview Student [REDACTED] and Student B regarding the allegations contained herein. DCPS CARE was unable to contact a parent or guardian of Student [REDACTED] or Student B to obtain consent to speak to the students. As such, DCPS CARE finds that 5-B DCMR 2405.2 (e) is unsubstantiated. There is no evidence to suggest that Student [REDACTED] was discriminated against on the basis of sex.

In order to respond to the facts contained herein, DCPS has or will take the following action:

1. By November 7, 2019, DCPS CARE will send a referral to the DCPS Office of Family and Public Engagement School Partnerships Division for the review of [REDACTED]'s eligibility to partner with DCPS.
2. By December 2, 2019, DCPS Office of Family and Public Engagement School Partnerships will provide training to [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] administration on partnership engagement, policies and procedures.

If you are not satisfied with this 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.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at dcps.care@k12.dc.gov or [202.442.5405](tel:202.442.5405).

Sincerely,



Anitra Allen-King, Director CARE

cc: Principal
Instructional Superintendent