



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Chief Operating Officer

BY EMAIL AND FIRST-CLASS MAIL

August 13, 2020



RE: Letter of Response for Grievance #3665 filed on February 4, 2020

Dear [REDACTED]:

In accordance with Chapter 24 Subtitle 5-B, Section 2405 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR), the D.C. Public Schools (DCPS) Comprehensive Alternative Resolution and Equity (CARE) team has completed its investigation of the above-referenced grievance.

Grievance Issues

The grievance raised the following issues under the jurisdiction of this office:

1. **5-B DCMR Subtitle 2405.1(d) & 2405.1(e)**: where it is alleged that there has been a violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color and national origin; and the D.C. Human Rights Act of 1977 which, in part, prohibits discrimination on the basis of race and color.
 - a. The grievance alleges that Student A told [REDACTED] they would stab [REDACTED] and hang [REDACTED] by a rope.

Investigative Procedure

The investigation included interviews with the following individuals:

1. [REDACTED], Principal at [REDACTED]
2. [REDACTED], Dean of Students at [REDACTED]

Additionally, CARE was unsuccessful in contacting you on the following dates: [REDACTED], and [REDACTED]. CARE also attempted to contact the family of Student A but was unsuccessful. The investigation also included review of the following documents which were either submitted by the complainant, submitted by the school, or accessible via DCPS data systems:

1. Aspen database for a review of student's attendance
2. Email from Assistant Principal [REDACTED] regarding steps taken by school to address concerns

General Findings of Fact

The following findings of fact resulted from the investigation:

1. [REDACTED]'s parent reported the initial concern to [REDACTED] on [REDACTED].
2. According to [REDACTED], Student A stated they would stab [REDACTED] and hang [REDACTED] by a rope.

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3. Dean of Students [REDACTED] interviewed [REDACTED] and Student A.
 4. Student A indicated they did not make the alleged statements.
 5. [REDACTED] provided Dean of Students [REDACTED] the names of three student witnesses who were present during the alleged incident. Dean of Students [REDACTED] interviewed the three students.
 6. None of the three students interviewed corroborated that Student A made the alleged statements.

Discussion/Conclusion

As a result of this review, DCPS finds that violations of **5-B DCMR Subtitle 2405.1(d) & 2405.1(e)** are unable to be substantiated. This decision is based upon a preponderance of the evidence standard. CARE was unable to make contact with the families of [REDACTED] or Student A to gather additional context for the allegations. Additionally, information from [REDACTED] administration indicates that the student witnesses who were interviewed were not able to corroborate that the alleged incident occurred. There is insufficient information to determine that the alleged behavior occurred or that it is a violation of the discrimination policy.

Although the alleged violations are unable to be substantiated, DCPS has taken the following actions below to address this incident:

1. Upon your request in [REDACTED], [REDACTED] administration moved [REDACTED] to another second-grade classroom.
2. Upon your subsequent request in [REDACTED], [REDACTED] administration moved [REDACTED] back to his original second-grade classroom.

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.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at dcps.care@k12.dc.gov or 202.442.5405.

Sincerely,



Anitra Allen, Director CARE

Cc: Principal
Instructional Superintendent