



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Chief Operating Officer

VIA EMAIL

November 17, 2020

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

RE: Letter of Response for Grievance #3721 filed on March 9, 2020

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 was reported that Student [REDACTED] has been bullied by Student A while at [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

Review Procedure

The review included interviews with the following individuals:

1. [REDACTED] Complainant, Parent of Student [REDACTED]
2. [REDACTED] Complainant, Parent of Student [REDACTED]
3. Guardian of Student A
4. [REDACTED] Principal

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

1. Student Behavior Tracker, DCPS database for student discipline

General Findings of Fact

1. In [REDACTED], you reported to DCPS CARE that Student [REDACTED] has been bullied by Student A. You reported that Student A took Student [REDACTED] lunch from his backpack and ate the lunch in front of Student [REDACTED].
2. DCPS CARE attempted to follow up with you regarding any additional incidents of potential bullying toward Student [REDACTED] by Student A but was unsuccessful.
3. According to Student A's guardian, Student A and Student [REDACTED] were going to trade items in their lunch, however, Student [REDACTED] decided they did not want to trade anymore and said Student [REDACTED] took their lunch. Student A's guardian reported they were unaware of any further issues between Student A and Student [REDACTED].
4. Principal [REDACTED] reported to DCPS CARE that there was a single incident in which Student A took Student [REDACTED] lunch. Principal [REDACTED] reported that the students were separated as a result.
5. Principal [REDACTED] reported that staff and administration were not aware of any additional incidents between Student A and Student [REDACTED].
6. Upon a review of the Student Behavior Tracker, there are no records to indicate that there was ongoing conflict between Student [REDACTED] and Student A.

Discussion/Conclusion

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

1. 5-B DCMR 2405.2(e) is unable to be substantiated. During the review you reported, and Principal [REDACTED] confirmed, that Student A took Student [REDACTED] lunch and ate it in front of him. The guardian of Student A reported to DCPS CARE that Student A did not take Student [REDACTED] lunch and that the students originally planned to trade their lunch. You, Principal [REDACTED] and the guardian of Student A reported no further incidents occurred between Student A and Student [REDACTED]. While taking Student [REDACTED] lunch and eating it is inappropriate behavior, the action is not sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive to meet the definition of bullying as defined in the DCPS Bullying Policy.

In order to ensure your concerns are addressed, DCPS has taken or will take the following action:

1. A meeting was held on [REDACTED] with you and [REDACTED] administration to discuss your concerns.
2. Student [REDACTED] and Student A were placed in separate lunch areas following the incident.
3. Within 10 school days of receipt of this letter, [REDACTED] will provide a check-in to Student [REDACTED] to determine if there are any ongoing concerns and develop a safety plan if necessary.

As the complainant, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anitra Allen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anitra Allen, Director CARE

CC: Principal
Instructional Superintendent