



BY EMAIL AND FIRST-CLASS MAIL

June 30, 2020



RE: Letter of Response for Grievance #3781 filed on June 15, 2020

Dear [REDACTED]:

In accordance with Chapter 24 Subtitle 5-B, Section 2405 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations, the

Grievance Issues

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

1. **5-B DCMR Subtitle 2405.2(d):** Where it is alleged that any student is being denied participation in any school activity for which the student is eligible.
 - a. The grievance alleges that [REDACTED] did not allow students to have a graduation or [REDACTED] event for its [REDACTED] graduates.

Investigative Procedure

The investigation included interviews with the following individuals:

1. You, [REDACTED]
2. Parent A, Parent of [REDACTED] student
3. [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Principal
4. [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Principal
5. [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Assistant Principal
6. Parent of Student A
7. Parent of Student B
8. Student C

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. Email from [REDACTED]
2. Email from Instructional Superintendent [REDACTED]
3. Email from [REDACTED] Principal [REDACTED]

General Findings of Fact

The following findings of fact resulted from the investigation:

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1. On [REDACTED], DCPS [REDACTED] responded to your concerns in an email stating that as a result of social gathering restrictions mandated by DC Health, “[he has] not authorized any in person activities at any of our schools outside of cap and gown pick up and scheduled photo opportunities with appropriate social distancing.”
 2. You stated during our interview that some [REDACTED] parents have discussed other schools within DCPS have held graduation events for their students.
 3. You also indicated that a main point for you was to have a physical space to celebrate the [REDACTED] graduating class.
 4. Principal [REDACTED] explained that the allegations that her school held any type of graduation event are “totally false.” Students at [REDACTED] were only permitted to pick up their cap and gown, [REDACTED] paraphernalia, and return books and borrowed devices.
 5. Principal [REDACTED] and Assistant Principal [REDACTED] stated that the allegations of [REDACTED] holding any formal or informal graduation events are “incorrect.” Students at [REDACTED] have only been allowed to return to the school for cap and gown pick-up.
 6. Principal [REDACTED] also stated that students at [REDACTED] have had no events for graduating seniors. Students have only been able to pick up their cap and gown and yearbook. Students did put on their cap and gown to allow for their parents to take pictures at the school.
 7. During the investigation, there was an allegation that [REDACTED] also held a graduation event. In an interview with Principal [REDACTED], she denied the allegations stating that the school had a scheduled cap and gown distribution and a photo opportunity on the soccer field.
 8. DCPS CARE spoke with families from three schools mentioned during the investigation that were alleged to have held an event for graduating seniors. Each stated that they have not participated in any such events.

Discussion/Conclusion

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

DCPS finds that a violation of **5-B DCMR Subtitle 2405.2(d)** is not substantiated. Based on the information gathered during the investigation, [REDACTED] has followed the directives set forth by [REDACTED], which currently only allow for cap and gown pick-up and scheduled photo opportunities with appropriate social distancing taken into consideration.

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