



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Chief Operating Officer

VIA E-MAIL AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

November 17, 2020

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

RE: Letter of Response for Written Grievance #3811 filed on September 11, 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

In accordance with Chapter 24 Subtitle 5-B, Section 2405 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations and 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 Subtitle 2405.2(e)** where a student is a victim of bullying or harassment, including sexual harassment.
 - a. On [REDACTED]; it was alleged, Student [REDACTED] created an online social media posting of Student A saying, [REDACTED]

Review Procedure

The review included interviews with the following individuals:

1. [REDACTED], Principal at [REDACTED]
2. [REDACTED] Counselor at [REDACTED]
3. Parent of Student A
4. Student A
5. [REDACTED] Parent of Student [REDACTED]
6. Student [REDACTED]

The review also included a review 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. SBT (Student Behavior Tracker) DCPS' Behavior Monitoring Database
 2. Tik Tok social media video provided by Student A
 3. Text messages provided by Student [REDACTED]
 4. Outlook chat messages between Student A and Student [REDACTED]

General Findings of Fact

The following findings of fact resulted from the review:

1. On [REDACTED] Student A and Student [REDACTED] engaged in a back-and-forth conflict in the virtual classroom setting where Student A told Student [REDACTED] to [REDACTED]
2. After the exchange while still in class Student [REDACTED] recorded a video of Student A with the caption, the one person I hate, and posted it to a social media site.
3. Student [REDACTED] alleged that Student A created a video of them on the same day and posted it to social media. DCPS Care did not obtain evidence of the alleged video.
4. [REDACTED] does not have a current policy in existence surrounding cellphones and recording during the virtual classroom setting.

Discussion/Conclusion

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

1. DCPS finds that **5-B DCMR Subtitle 2405.2(e)** is not substantiated. The information gathered during the investigation determined that the alleged incident was an isolated occurrence involving Student A and Student [REDACTED]. As outlined in the DCPS Bullying Point of Contact Training, cyberbullying is the intention of repeated hurtful comments or posts etc., that are intended to harm. Although Student [REDACTED] post was hurtful it was not repetitive and does not rise to the level of cyberbullying. Therefore, DCPS CARE finds that the behavior of Student [REDACTED] was not pervasive or persistent and was not in violation of 5-B DCMR Subtitle 2405.2 (e).

In order to respond to your concerns and ensure that your student is supported, DCPS and/or [REDACTED] [REDACTED] has taken or will take the following action(s):

1. Student [REDACTED] will attend weekly check in sessions with School Counselor [REDACTED] until parties believe it is no longer warranted. To date, Student [REDACTED] has completed two sessions [REDACTED].
2. On [REDACTED] all of Student [REDACTED] classes were changed so that they would not be in the same cohort as Student A.

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