

BY EMAIL

March 18, 2022

RE: Letter of Response for Case #4322 and #4323 received on January 28, 2022

Dear :

In accordance with Subtitle 5-B, Section 2405 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations, DC Public Schools (DCPS) Comprehensive Alternative Resolution and Equity (CARE) team has completed its review of the above referenced matter.

Grievance Issues

The following issues were reported in the District of Columbia Public Schools Incident Reporting Tool and require further review because they fall 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.
 - a. It is alleged that during school year 2021-2022, Student has been continuously harassing Student B, Student C and Student D. The harassing behavior includes sexual comments, spreading sexual rumors, threats and insults.

The allegations regarding the sexual rumors and sexual comments fall under District of Columbia Human Rights Law of 1977 which, in part, prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex.

Review Procedure

The investigation included interviews with the following individuals:

- 1. Parent of Student
- 2. Student
- 3. Parent of Student C

- 4. Student C
- 5. Parent of Student B
- 6. Student B
- 7. Student D

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. Student Behavior Tracker – DCPS Discipline Record

Pertinent Regulatory, Policy, and Procedural Considerations

The following pertinent, regulatory, policy and/or procedural considerations apply to these allegations:

- According to The District of Columbia Human Rights Law of 1977, Title 2, Chapter 14
 of the D.C. Official Code (DC Human Rights Act), § 2-1402.41. It is an unlawful
 discriminatory practice... for an educational institution...to deny, restrict, or to
 abridge or condition the use of, or access to, any of its facilities, services, programs,
 or benefits of any program or activity to any person otherwise qualified, wholly or
 partially, for a discriminatory reason, based upon...sex."
- According to the DCPS Anti-Discrimination Policy and the DCPS Notice of Non-Discrimination, DCPS does not discriminate or tolerate discrimination on the basis of sex.

Findings of Fact

The following findings of fact resulted from the investigation:

- 1. Student C reported that Student persistently makes sexual advances towards them. Sexual advances include explicit and descriptive sexual requests.
- 2. Student C reported that the behavior of Student is so aggressive that they stopped going to lunch.
- 3. Student C reported that Student slapped their buttocks on two occasions in October and/or November of 2021.
- 4. Student C reported that Student threatened to slap them, break their phone and have other students attack Student C if a complaint was filed against them. On one occasion, Student had other students send Student C text messages outlining their intention to fight Student C.
- 5. Student B reported that for three to four months Student **Example** sexually assaulted them on an ongoing basis. This included touching Student B's breasts and buttocks.

- 6. Student B reported that Student attempted to force them into a romantic relationship. Student B reported that after telling Student and Student began to threaten to physically harm Student B and Student B's family.
- 7. Student B reported that Student pulled their hair.
- 8. Student B reported that on a specific occasion, Student **B** backed Student B into a corner on the stairwell and touched Student B's breast. This conduct was unwelcomed.
- 9. Student D reported that Student **Example** threatened them and their friends and called them a hoe.
- 10. Student denied sexually touching or threatening any students. Student reported that Student B told Student to stop texting them. When asked why, Student said Student B was upset because Student B lost a game on text message.
- 11. Student acknowledged pulling Student B.'s hair on one occasion and said it was an accident.
- 12. Student acknowledged calling students

Discussion/Conclusion

DCPS CARE finds that **5-B DCMR 2405.2(e)** is substantiated as a violation. Student C and Student B both reported being inappropriately touched by Student **1** The reported touch included unwelcomed touching of Student C and Student B's breasts and buttocks. Student C and Student B both reported sexual harassment, including explicit sexual comments and requests. Student C, Student B, and Student D all reported being physically threatened by Student **1** on an ongoing basis. Threats included threats to the individual students, their friends and families. Except for calling students **1** Student **1** denied any inappropriate conduct. However, the reports received from Student C, Student B, and Student D all illustrate inappropriate conduct from Student **1** Student C and Student D all outlined threats of physical harm. Given this information, DCPS CARE finds that it is more likely than not that the reported conduct occurred. The alleged conduct is sufficiently severe, persistent and pervasive to find that Student **1** violated **5-B DCMR 2405.2(e)**.

Corrective Action

1. Appropriate Chapter 25 disciplinary infractions were administered to Student

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 <u>dcps.cio@k12.dc.gov</u>. 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 <u>dcps.care@k12.dc.gov</u> or 202.442.5405.

Sincerely,

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Anitra Allen, Director CARE

Cc: Principal Instructional Superintendent