

SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND

On or about December 7, 2018, teacher Pamela D. Beal (hereinafter “P.B.”) slapped a first grade student in the face. One of P.B.’s students, R.S., was sick and coughing. P.B. instructed R.S. to stay away from her so that she would not get sick. R.S. playfully got closer to P.B. and started coughing in P.B.’s face on multiple occasions. P.B. asked R.S. to stop coughing in her face, and R.S. continued to laugh and cough very close to P.B.’s face. P.B. reacted by slapping R.S.’s left cheek with the open palm of her right hand. After P.B. struck R.S. he reached for his cheek and began screaming. P.B. could not calm R.S. down so she left the classroom to find Jeffrey Roberts (hereinafter “J.R.”), a paraprofessional who works directly with R.S., to help control R.S.’s behavior. J.R. arrived at the classroom and tried to calm R.S. down, eventually having to remove R.S. from the classroom.

Maria Quesada (hereinafter “M.Q.”) witnessed the incident and reported what she saw to the Autism Coach at Sea Castle. After P.B. was questioned about the incident, P.B. made comments to M.Q. while they were in the classroom saying, “Why did you tell on me? You shouldn’t have said anything. I didn’t do anything.” During the ensuing investigation, P.B. falsely accused M.Q. of making a false report about P.B.’s actions. Both M.Q. and the student transferred out of P.B.’s classroom and were reassigned to a different teacher.

The Assistant General Counsel prepared the Administrative Complaint and notice was provided to P.B. that a recommendation for her five (5) day suspension without pay will be presented to the School Board on September 17, 2019. The Administrative Complaint was served on P.B. on August 26, 2019, and she timely requested a hearing.

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