

SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND

On or about January 16, 2019, teacher Mary Catherine Byrd (hereinafter “BYRD”) slapped a student in the face to direct him to check his schedule. On the same day, BYRD slapped a second student on the hand to redirect the student as the student was working on a laptop. According to Kayla Wright, a paraprofessional in BYRD’s classroom (hereinafter “WRIGHT”), *student, J.D., “was taking his time going to check his schedule so BYRD slapped him on his face to direct him to check his schedule. The student then began to cry.”* WRIGHT further stated about a second student, *“BYRD placed C.G. on the laptop. C.G. accidentally made the screen bigger so BYRD ended up slapping him on the hand saying “No C.G., No, No, No!”*

The Assistant General Counsel prepared the Administrative Complaint and notice was personally served on BYRD on September 18, 2019, that a recommendation for her five (5) day suspension without pay will be presented to the School Board on October 2, 2019. Because of a delay serving BYRD due to BYRD being absent from school and her subsequent jury duty, her deadline for requesting a hearing will expire on October 3, 2019, the day after the Board meeting. Staff will advise the School Board whether a hearing has been requested prior to the start of the Board meeting on October 2, 2019.

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