

SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND

At approximately 2:50 AM, on September 15, 2017, Broward Sheriff's Office deputies arrested DAVID MICHAEL STOKES (hereinafter "STOKES"), when he was found with two minor females, I.V. (a former student of Stokes), and B.C., in a closed park. Both minors appeared visibly intoxicated. STOKES had provided the two minors with alcohol (Vodka and Tequila) and Coricidin Cough and Cold medicine (Triple "C" pills). On another occasion, STOKES was hanging out with I.V. and D.R., also a minor, when STOKES attempted to penetrate I.V.'s vagina with his penis. In accordance with Broward County School Board (hereinafter "School Board") Policy 4.9, termination is recommended.

The Administrative Complaint was served on STOKES and he timely requested a hearing. Subsequent to the Board's action, the matter was transferred to the Division of Administrative Hearings (hereinafter "DOAH") to assign an Administrative Law Judge (hereinafter "ALJ") to conduct the final hearing challenging the School Board's discipline. Said hearing was continued four (4) times to accommodate the resolution of the criminal case pending against STOKES. Thereafter, the ALJ issued an Order to Show Cause why the proceeding should not be dismissed, and STOKES failed to timely respond.

On October 16, 2019, the Administrative Law Judge entered a Recommended Order of Dismissal as Moot and relinquished jurisdiction to the School Board based on the resolution of the pending criminal case on September 25, 2019, wherein STOKES was sentenced to twelve (12) months of probation. As conditions of his probation, STOKES is required to surrender his Florida Education Certificate and cannot be employed supervising children ages 18 years of age or younger.

The Assistant General Counsel recommends that the School Board adopt the Recommended Order of Dismissal as Moot. The School Board's decision is final and any subsequent requests for hearing should be denied.