

SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND

During the 2019-2020 school year Eric S. Delucia (hereinafter “DELUCIA”) had inappropriate conduct and interactions with his students on two separate occasions. DELUCIA has a history of inappropriate conduct and verbally abusive interactions with his students. Prior to this Administrative Complaint, there have been multiple corrective action meetings with DELUCIA regarding his unprofessional and inappropriate behavior – including three (3) prior formal reprimands. During the time of the incidents outlined in the Administrative Complaint, DELUCIA was on probationary status as a teacher for two (2) years pursuant to a Final Order by the Education Practices Commission of the State of Florida dated May 8, 2018, and Recommended Order by the Division of Administrative Hearings dated November 20, 2017.

On or about September 26, 2019, DELUCIA engaged in a verbal confrontation with one of his students, K.L. This verbal altercation was witnessed by numerous students. Specifically, student K.L. was out of his seat during class. DELUCIA approached the student and stated to K.L., “come here dummy.” Confused, K.L. asked DELUCIA what he said and DELUCIA replied, “come here dummy” and “idiot” to K.L. Upon the repetition of the statements to K.L., the verbal confrontation escalated. K.L. told DELUCIA to “watch his mouth” while DELUCIA kept repeating the statement “you are a dummy” to K.L., while laughing at K.L.

On or about November 14, 2019, DELUCIA had a verbal confrontation with student Z.L. This was witnessed by several students. Specifically, DELUCIA asked student Z.L. to put his student identification on his person. Z.L. was working on a class assignment and did not respond immediately. DELUCIA then stated to Z.L., “Now you brat.” DELUCIA further stated, “If you would listen and stop being stupid you would hear me.” Confused, Z.L. stated, “I’m stupid?” To which DELUCIA replied, “Yes, look how stupid you look, little brat.” DELUCIA then directed Z.L. to leave his classroom. Z.L. obliged and started to leave the classroom. As Z.L. was leaving the classroom, DELUCIA escalated the confrontation. DELUCIA confronted Z.L. and stated, “You’re nothing but a pussy.” When this was said, Z.L. confronted DELUCIA, where further words were exchanged, and DELUCIA dared Z.L. to hit him. Z.L. stated he would not hit DELUCIA. As such, while laughing at Z.L., DELUCIA called Z.L. a “pussy” for not hitting him. Security had to be summoned to the classroom. DELUCIA wanted Z.L. arrested and placed in handcuffs.

The Administrative Counsel prepared the Administrative Complaint and notice was personally served on DELUCIA on February 28, 2020, that a recommendation for his termination will be presented to the School Board on March 18, 2020. Subsequently, on March 5, 2020, Administrative Counsel served an Amended Administrative Complaint via email to DELUCIA’s attorney to correct a scrivener’s error and he timely requested a hearing. Thereafter, Administrative Counsel notified DELUCIA through his attorney by email that the recommendation for termination will be presented to the School Board on April 21, 2020.