

SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND

During the 2018-2019 school year, Tahisha Brown (hereinafter “BROWN”), an Exceptional Student Education (“ESE”) autism cluster teacher at Pasadena Lakes Elementary School, had inappropriate conduct and interactions with her students. BROWN was recorded cursing at students, threatening students, and slapping and/or clapping at students.

In May of 2019, a concerned parent used the AngelSense device to record BROWN’s class. This was in response to several ESE autism students from BROWN’s class who came home from school and started repeating profanity, such as “Ms. Brown is going to fuck you up” and “Ms. Brown is going to mess you up.” A child from the class also came home from BROWN’s class with bruises and/or marks.

BROWN’s actions led to an investigation by Child Protective Investigator Christine Forbes who presented the audio recording to Principal Phelps, Assistant Principal (“A.P”) Mokisha Spencer and School Resource Officer Melvin Seguin. After listening to the recording, Principal Phelps and A.P. Spencer confirmed the voices of BROWN and BROWN’s teacher assistant, Ms. Joyce Bradley on the recording. Principal Phelps confirmed BROWN was cursing and yelling at the children on the audio recording. Additionally, the audio recording depicted sounds of what appeared to be the slapping and/or hitting of children, as well as children crying, and yelling the word “ouch.”

Interviewed parents confirmed their children either came home from school cursing or with bruises and/or marks on their body during this time. A Child Protective Services investigation confirmed child abuse.

Additionally, not only did Principal Janet Phelps and A.P. Spencer both positively identify the adult voices on the audio recording as BROWN and Ms. Bradley, but ESE specialist Ms. Christina Boos-Patten and Autism Coach Ms. Chelsea Coldwell also positively identified BROWN on the audio recording.

On or about December 19, 2013, BROWN was recommended for dismissal of employment of instructional employee during the probationary period. This was from Principal Hollingsworth at Silver Ridge Elementary School. BROWN chose to resign in lieu of termination.

The Administrative Counsel prepared the Administrative Complaint and notice was provided to BROWN that a recommendation for her termination will be presented to the School Board on July 21, 2020, so that her deadline for requesting a hearing will expire prior to the Board meeting. Staff will advise the School Board whether a hearing has been requested no later than by the start of the Board meeting on July 21, 2020.