

**SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND**

On or about September 14, 2018, the family members of student P.P., met with Shereen Reynolds, Assistant Principal (hereinafter REYNOLDS), regarding their concerns that Ava E. Williams (hereinafter WILLIAMS) had choked P.P. On or about September 17, 2018, REYNOLDS, informed WILLIAMS of the allegations and WILLIAMS, stated that she recalled yelling at P.P., and asking him if “he hears me”, but denied that she choked him. On or about September 21, 2018, during a teacher/parent conference with WILLIAMS and the family of P.P., REYNOLD’s received a text message indicating that WILLIAMS, admitted to Shawony Russell, Teacher, (hereinafter RUSSELL), that she did choke P.P. In a follow-up interview, RUSSELL, explained that on or about September 18, 2018, while in the hallway with WILLIAMS and another student, WILLIAMS shielded her mouth with a coffee cup and admitted to RUSSELL, that she had in fact choked P.P. This recommendation is part of progressive discipline. On December 17, 2013, WILLIAMS received a five (5) day suspension in addition to other corrective actions outlined in the Administrative Complaint, for battery on a student. On February 6, 2012, WILLIAMS, received a written reprimand for using inappropriate language directed at her students. WILLIAMS was also directed to refrain from using terms with students that are derogatory or disparaging in nature.

The Administrative Complaint was served on WILLIAMS and she timely requested a hearing. Subsequent to the School 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.

On January 14, 2020, the ALJ entered a Recommended Order exonerating WILLIAMS of all charges brought against her, and reinstating WILLIAMS to her pre-dismissal position and awarding WILLIAMS back salary as required under Section 1012.33(6)(a).

The Assistant General Counsel recommends that the School Board adopt the Recommended Order. The School Board’s decision is final.