

AMENDED SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND

This recommendation is based upon conduct occurring in the 2019-2020 school year. HALYNA SHVANK (hereinafter “SHVANK”) is an autism cluster teacher at Dania Elementary School (hereinafter “Dania Elementary”) where she teaches first grade exceptional student education (“ESE”) consisting of a class of eight (8) students. In the Fall semester of 2019, a Broward College student, Mr. Diego Balin, in his final year of studying education, was placed in SHVANK’s class so he could complete his practicum.

On or about September 18, 2019, Mr. Balin witnessed SHVANK yell at student M.S., slapping M.S.’s chin, causing M.S.’s head to snap back, and grabbing M.S. by the shoulders lifting him off the ground in his chair. During another incident, SHVANK was again yelling at M.S. and aggressively grabbed M.S. by the shoulders and made contact with M.S.’s head. Mr. Balin also witnessed SHVANK aggressively grabbing another student by the head/neck. Mr. Balin was concerned about what was occurring in SHVANK’s class, so he took out his phone and recorded the incidents.

The Administrative Counsel prepared the Administrative Complaint and notice will be provided to SHVANK that a recommendation for her three (3) day suspension without pay will be presented to the School Board on October 6, 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 October 6, 2020. On October 7, 2020, Administrative Counsel served upon SHVANK’s counsel the Amended Administrative Complaint.