



February 12, 2010

The Honorable Vincent C. Gray,  
Chairman  
The Council of the District of Columbia  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Chairman Gray,

I wanted to respond to the outstanding requests included in your letter to me dated January 25<sup>th</sup>. Enclosed is a report that lists each charge of corporal punishment or sexual misconduct that was substantiated and reported to the Metropolitan Police Department.

In accordance with your request for “each instance where a teacher or school official hit children or had sex with children,” the report is limited to incidents involving members of the Washington Teachers Union (teachers) and the Council of School Officers union (school officials). The report also identifies the status of each case and whether the employment of the individual involved was terminated as part of the October 2<sup>nd</sup> reduction in force. Pending cases are not included in the enclosed report. It is limited to cases from July 1, 2007 through February 5, 2010.

Please note that while corporal punishment or sexual misconduct was substantiated in each of the instances included on the attached report, the description of the particular conduct underlying each instance reflects the conduct as it was reported or alleged.

Not included in this report is the case of a then-eighteen-year-old special needs student who reported that she had sexual relations with a teacher, resulting in her pregnancy. Because of the student's age, DCPS was informed by MPD and the AUSA that the act did not warrant criminal investigation. It is DCPS' understanding that the student continues to maintain that her former teacher is the father of her child and is seeking to establish paternity. She is receiving assistance from relevant District social services agencies. This is the case I referenced in response to the article that appeared in [Fast Company](#).

In addition, I advised in response to the [Fast Company](#) article that six employees separated in the reduction in force had been suspended for corporal punishment. Please note that the enclosed report only includes five instances where a separated teacher or school official was suspended. The other case involved an individual who was not a teacher or school official.

I remain concerned that reports of this nature will unfairly and inaccurately label all of DCPS' teachers. I have stated repeatedly that the vast majority of teachers work hard to ensure that all of our students succeed. The instances documented in the attached report reflect conduct of a very small portion of our teachers. No conclusions should be drawn from this report about the

---

teacher workforce as a whole and I am extremely wary of the way this information may be manipulated or communicated without the proper context.

The data included in this report is different from the information published earlier this week in the Washington Post. That article appears to have been based upon allegations (not substantiated findings) against all DCPS employees (not only teachers and school officials), prior to completion of the necessary investigations. The enclosed report reflects substantiated cases involving the specific employee groups identified in your letter.

In conjunction with my January 29<sup>th</sup> letter to you, this letter constitutes DCPS' response to your request.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Michelle Rhee  
Chancellor

cc: Mayor Adrian M. Fenty