UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS



5 POST OFFICE SQUARE, 8^{TH} FLOOR BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109-3921

Kenneth M. Sheehan Superintendent, Attleboro Public Schools 100 Rathbun Willard Drive Attleboro, Massachusetts 02703

Re: Complaint No. 01-12-1044

Dear Superintendent Sheehan:

This letter is to inform you that the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR) is closing the investigation of the above-referenced complaint that was filed against Attleboro Public Schools (District) because the District has agreed to voluntarily resolve the allegations on terms that OCR has found to be acceptable, as explained further below.

As you may recall, the Complainant alleged that the District failed to adequately respond to a report of sexual harassment against a student (Student), and that the District's inadequate response perpetuated a sexually hostile environment for the Student at her school. OCR opened this complaint pursuant to our authority under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and its implementing regulation found at 34 C.F.R. Part 106 (Title IX), which OCR enforces. Title IX broadly prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, by educational institutions that receive Federal funding. The District is subject to Title IX because it is a recipient of Federal funding from the U.S. Department of Education.

OCR specifically investigated whether the Student was subjected to a sexually hostile environment, and whether the District failed to promptly and equitably respond to a complaint of sexual harassment, in violation of 34 C.F.R. Section 106.31.

OCR has determined that this resolution addresses the underlying allegations in this case, as well as the other information OCR obtained during its preliminary investigation. These terms are also consistent with Title IX. Accordingly, OCR is closing the investigation of this complaint as of the date of this letter.

As memorialized in the Agreement, OCR will monitor the District's compliance with the agreed-upon terms. OCR will close the monitoring of this matter, and will notify the parties in writing, once it determines that the District has satisfied the terms of the Agreement. The District has agreed to provide OCR with its first monitoring report by January 15, 2015.

OCR would like to thank you and your staff, and particularly outside counsel Alisia St. Florian, for your cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions, you may contact Attorney Ramzi Ajami at (617) 289-0086 or at Ramzi.Ajami@ed.gov; or Investigator Olga Benjamin at (617) 289-0041 or at Olga.Benjamin@ed.gov. You may also contact me directly at (617) 289-0111.

Sincerely,

/s/ Joel J. Berner

Joel J. Berner Regional Director

Enclosure

cc: Alisia St. Florian, Esq.