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Investigator's Report

I was asked by the Middleton School Committee to conduct an investigation of recent events involving inappropriate sexual behavior by a first grade student. I was asked to focus my investigation on determining the chronology of events involving this child. I was further asked to evaluate the school districts established policies and procedures for reporting on and responding to incidents of these type. I was asked to determine if these policies and procedures were followed in this case. Finally the school committee requested that I make recommendations for any corrective action.

Please note that some of the information contained in this report and the attached chronology may be found in the record of the student whose behavior prompted this investigation. Access to this information is restricted by the Student Records Regulations of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 603 CMR 23.00. Therefore, I recommend the removal of all indentifying information from the report before it is publically released.

[REDACTED TEXT]

Recommendations:

Discipline Policy.

The inappropriate behaviors of this child clearly violated the rules of the school. I recommend that any such behaviors should be treated under the discipline policy. The school discipline policy is not intended simply to punish children. It is intended to help young children identify their own inappropriate behaviors and help them take steps to prevent it. In this case the school could have used the policy to inform the child that he had done something wrong and help him take steps to address his behaviors. The discipline policy has a provision for the child to make a written or verbal apology. I believe that this child would have benefitted from make such and apology.

Coordination of Response.

The child's reported behavior on the bus in February 2009 should have triggered some form of ongoing coordinated, monitoring of his behavior. The principal should have developed a coordinated plan for observing and monitoring the child. The first grade teacher should have been informed about the past events before the child was placed in her classroom and asked to observe the child closely.

All complaints or comments about this boy's behavior regardless of the source should be directed to the principal. The principal would then be aware of all of the issues and would be in a position to address them. The principal should be the contact person for individuals outside of the school who had an issue with this child.

The school administration should treat everyone in the building who is responsible for supervising children as part of the treatment team regardless of their formal role. School lunch aides, bus drivers, aides during recess, the nurse, secretaries, any teachers who may be involved with a child should all be informed about the nature and extent of any restrictions on the child's behavior or need for supervision. In addition, the reasons for the restriction should be clearly stated to everyone involved.

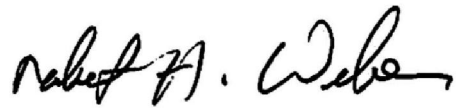
Sharing Information

Some of the information about his situation could have been shared with the parents of his classmates in a supportive manner that may have helped them understand his situation and helped him interact with his classmates. The school should develop a policy for identifying situations where sharing a child's personal information will be help for the child, and a procedure for addressing these issues with the child's parent and obtaining consent to share appropriate information.

Risk Assessment

Risk management issues involving children as possible perpetrators are not usually associated with the early elementary school grades. However, they certainly arise. The school department may want to consider contracting with an outside organization for assistance in evaluating children, ~~such as this child,~~ whose behaviors may present a risk of harm.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert H. Weber". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'W'.

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