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May 9, 2024

Dr. Dana Kriznar, Interim Superintendent  
Duval County Public Schools  
1701 Prudential Drive  
Jacksonville, Florida 32207

Dear Interim Superintendent Kriznar:

I must express my concern about the lack of progress and action regarding the numerous issues affecting the health, safety and welfare of students in Duval County Public Schools (DCPS). It is critical that you prioritize this responsibility.

As previously shared with you, in April 2023, DCPS reported a total of seventy-three (73) cases to the Florida Department of Education's Office of Professional Practices Services (PPS) because those cases dated back as far as 2020, spanning three different school years, and were not previously reported to PPS.

On April 25, 2023, I sent a letter to Superintendent Diana Greene, sharing that it was completely unacceptable that DCPS did not promptly report cases as required by the Florida Statutes. This prompted the Office of Inspector General (OIG) to begin investigating DCPS for their delayed reporting in violation of Section 1012.796(1)(d)1., Florida Statutes (F.S.). On January 25, 2024, the OIG released Investigative Report 2023-0003, that substantiated that DCPS failed to report alleged teacher misconduct to PPS as required by section 1012.796, F.S., and Duval County School Board Policy 6.80.

On February 1, 2024, I sent you a letter informing you of the OIG findings and shared that as the Commissioner of Education, my first priority is protecting Florida's students. You indicated that DCPS was committed to the health, safety and welfare of students; however, on February 24, 2024, you learned that one of your educators, Christopher Allen-Black, was arrested and charged with Exposure of Sexual Organs. Rather than immediately removing Mr. Allen-Black from direct contact with students, you elected to allow him to remain in the classroom until April 11, 2024. This is unacceptable.

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It is clear that there is more work that needs to be done in your district. Your failure to address these pressing concerns reflects a lack of prioritization for the well-being of students, parents and educators who rely on you to ensure a safe and conducive learning environment.

I'm reaching out to express my concern on these issues. I expect a response within five (5) days of receiving this correspondence outlining what steps you will take to ensure that these issues are immediately addressed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Manny Diaz, Jr.', is written over the typed name.

Manny Diaz, Jr.  
Commissioner

cc: Darryl Willie, Duval County School Board Chairman  
Charlotte D. Joyce, Duval County School Board Vice Chairman  
April A. Carney, Duval County School Board Member  
Dr. Kelly Coker, Duval County School Board Member  
Lori Hershey, Duval County School Board Member  
Warren A. Jones, Duval County School Board Member  
Cindy Pearson, Duval County School Board Member