



March 3, 2022

Dora Vazquez
1653 W 24th St, Los Angeles, CA 90007-1526
Via email at vasquezdora14@gmail.com

Subject: Complaint Meeting January 20, 2023

Disposition Closure Letter

Dear Ms. Vazquez:

Per the Los Angeles Unified School District policy, Bulletin 6612.0, Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment (Including Sexual Harassment) Policy and Complaint Procedures, “No conduct with the purpose or effect of having a negative impact upon the individual’s work or academic performance or of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational or work environment will be tolerated.”

When the Community of School or Region District receives a complaint or otherwise learns of alleged violations of District policy and procedures prohibiting discrimination in the workplace, an immediate investigation is initiated, followed by appropriate administrative handling.

This correspondence acknowledges our meeting on January 20, 2023 and letter, dated January 24, 2023, as a complaint against school at Vermont Elementary alleging bullying against your child prior to the pandemic, along with additional concerns including cafeteria menu, lack of supervision, Williams Facility Complaint, reclassification rates, and ELAC procedures and/or protocols.

This letter is to inform you that we have taken the appropriate steps to investigate and resolve this matter. Confidentiality laws prohibit us from disclosing specific measures taken with the other parties, but please be assured that your report was taken seriously and managed according to our bullying and hazing and our discipline policies.

Bullying is a deliberate and unwanted, severe or pervasive physical, verbal, or electronic act, conduct or communication, committed by a pupil(s) that has, or can be reasonably predicted to have, the effect of one or more of the following: (1) Reasonable fear of harm to person or property; (2) Substantially detrimental effect on physical or mental health; (3) Substantial interference with academic performance; and (4) Substantial interference with the ability to participate in or benefit from school services, activities, or privileges. Allegations of bullying are investigated by the school whose determination of findings guides the ensuing actions.

Lack of Supervision, according to District policy and average norms of supervision, the school has ample personnel to provide supervision before and after school, as well as during recess and lunch. Please keep in mind during times of staff illness, modifications to the supervision schedule is made accordingly.

Williams Facility Complaint, under California Education Code (EC) Section 35186 the filing of complaints concerning deficiencies related to instructional materials, conditions of facilities that are not maintained in a clean or safe manner or in good repair, and/or teacher vacancy or misassignment. According to the complaint submitted to the Community of School office on January 24, 2023, none of the aforementioned deficiencies were addressed in your complaint, therefore the school is compliant on all items under California Education Code (EC) Section 35186.

Reclassification Rates, in our meeting as well as your hand written Williams Complaint you indicated the school has not made any academic progress for all English Learners, specifically the schools reclassification rates. According to State and District data, Vermont reclassified 22% of its students for the 2022 school year. The school has surpassed all similar schools in LAUSD as well as make the Districts benchmark of 22%.

ELAC Procedures and/or Protocols, administrators from the Multilingual and Multicultural Education Department met and presented to the ELAC and parents at Vermont Elem on February 13, 2023. During the meeting the role of ELAC council was reviewed along with the process on the writing of the schools SPSA. It was concluded, even though the schools Categorical Coordinator has changed several times in the past three years, the school has remained in compliant with ELAC policy and protocols. Although several recommendations include reviewing Roberts Rule of Order with members of the council and ensuring that the ELAC council is not a decision-making council.

Cafeteria Menu, the school does not provide food options to students and pizza is always served. The LAUSD Food Services division conducted an investigation on January 31, 2023 and concluded the school is in compliant with nutritional meals served at the school. As required by policy, the school serves two hot and one cold entree daily, and the cold entree is selected per the student's preferences. During the month of January, pizza was offered only on Tuesdays. Further, since students are given choices, based on meals issued to students, the majority of students do not select salads.

The complaints were investigated and administratively handled with the respondent and his/her management. It is the intention of the District to prevent any possible violation of District policy from occurring and to ensure that no complainant is subjected to retaliation. Should the behavior continue, or you perceive a violation of District policy, or retaliation, you must report such behavior immediately to my office or the Region South Office so that the matter can be handled accordingly. You are reminded that complaints shall be handled in a confidential manner, respecting the privacy of all parties to the fullest extent possible.

Should you wish to appeal this decision, written appeals must be sent within 15 working days of receipt of this response.

Disposition Closure Letter to Region South Operations Unit, 1208 Magnolia Ave, Gardena, CA 90247. Acceptable issues for appeal include 1) bias 2) new evidence that was not previously considered, or 3) failure to follow procedures.

The safety of our students is our priority. Open communication and respectful treatment of others are the most effective tools to prevent bullying. Should other incidents of concerns arise, please put your concerns in writing and give to the school administrator who will conduct an investigation in a timely manner. Please also encourage your child to immediately report any concerns to my office. We are here to help.

Thank you for your continued support. If you should have any questions regarding this matter, please contact your child's school principal, Ms. Ferguson, at (323) 733-2195, Operations Coordinator, Mr. Alex Vazquez at (213) 760-3732 or me at (323) 200-2980.

Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rafael L. Balderas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rafael L. Balderas,
Community of Schools Administrator

cc: Andre Spicer, Superintendent, Region South
Peter Hastings, Operations Administrator, Region South
Alex Vazquez, Operation Coordinator, Region South
Patricia Ferguson, Principal, Vermont Elementary

