June 25, 2018

Statement (CEO Jackson):

“Every adult who serves in our district has a responsibility to protect students from harm, and CPS is committed to holding staff members accountable when they fail to uphold that duty.

“As a result of district-led investigations into allegations of sexual abuse, two CPS principals were removed from their positions today due to initial findings that suggest they did not effectively safeguard their students. Investigations into both cases remain ongoing, and we will keep the school communities updated as this process moves forward.”

Background:

Simeon

- CPS removed Simeon Principal Dr. Sheldon House today from his duties at the school.

- Several weeks ago, CPS began an internal audit of the management practices designed to keep students safe at Simeon High School. In particular, the review focused on the school’s response to past events in which volunteers were able to coach athletics without the proper background checks. Unfortunately, the audit found systemic issues in Simeon’s handling of volunteer background checks.

- During the audit, CPS became aware of a new allegation of sexual abuse by a Simeon volunteer, which was not handled in accordance with CPS policy. The volunteer is now barred from the school, and the allegation of abuse is under investigation. CPS will provide an update to the school community after the investigation is complete.

- CPS has selected Patricia Woodson, a retired former principal who has previously served as the Administrator in Charge of Harlan, Marshall, and South Shore Int’l high schools, to serve as Simeon’s Administrator in Charge until a new principal is selected by the Local School Council.

- Simeon’s Local School Council, staff and parents were notified about the principal’s removal this afternoon following notification to Dr. House.

Goode

- CPS reassigned Goode STEM Academy principal Armando Rodriguez today pending the outcome of an investigation.
- In early June, CPS immediately removed a teacher from Sarah Goode STEM Academy after an allegation of possible sexual abuse of a student was made.

- Today, CPS reassigned Armando Rodriguez from his principal duties at Sarah E. Goode STEM Academy effective June 25, 2018, pending the outcome of an investigation into the school’s oversight of staff interactions with students.

- CPS has selected David Gilligan, the retired former principal of the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, to serve as Goode’s Administrator in Charge until a new principal is selected by the Local School Council.

- CPS and DCFS are currently investigating to determine if abuse occurred, and the district will provide an update to the school community after the investigation is complete.

- Goode’s Local School Council, staff and parents were notified about the principal’s reassignment this afternoon following notification to Mr. Rodriguez.

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