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REPORT RELEASED TODAY

Today, Special Commissioner of Investigation Richard J. Condon released a report detailing the findings of an investigation which substantiated that there were financial irregularities at and theft from PS/MS 149 in Manhattan. Between April 2005 and August 2007, Katina Williams, the school's former business manager, used the Small Item Payment Process ("SIPP") to create 123 fictitious SIPP payments, which were sent to the school and then deposited into one of the school's bank accounts. Those checks totaled more than \$28,000.00. Williams also withdrew money from the accounts. Additionally, Williams removed two Department of Education computers from the school. Pearl Jones, a school aide, failed to deposit more than \$9,000.00 in cash in any school bank account at the end of the 2008-2009 school year. Shaniquia (Singletary) Dixon was the principal of PS/MS 149 during these events.

The Special Commissioner recommended to the Chancellor that Williams be terminated from employment with the DOE and be made ineligible for work in the City school system. Additionally, Commissioner Condon recommended that the DOE take appropriate disciplinary action against Dixon and Jones.

Commissioner Condon again recommended that the DOE take whatever steps are necessary to correct the problems associated with school level finances.

Commissioner Condon has referred his findings to New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr. for whatever action he deems appropriate.

The Office of the Special Commissioner of Investigation is part of the New York City Department of Investigation and Special Commissioner Condon reports to Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn.