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Report Released Today—Copies Available

Today, Special Commissioner of Investigation Richard J. Condon released a report detailing an investigation which found that Lisa Schmude, a NYC Department of Education (DOE) Social Studies teacher assigned to JHS 259 in Brooklyn, had an inappropriate relationship with and otherwise behaved inappropriately toward two students (female "Student A" and male "Student B").

The investigation was initiated after Schmude testified at Student B's criminal trial on charges that he shot Student A's brother. During her testimony, Schmude revealed that she arranged a meeting between Student A and Student B while they were her students. Schmude encouraged then-12-year-old Student A to kiss Student B—which she did out of Schmude's view. Schmude also visited Student A's home on several occasions with the approval of Student A's mother.

At a meeting between then-14-year-old Student A and Student B arranged by Schmude, Student B boasted about shooting someone on Student A's block the previous year and the victim turned out to be Student A's brother. Schmude directed Student A to "leave me out of it" and was angered that the girl showed her brother Student B's photo, which resulted in his identification as the shooter. Student B was subsequently arrested, tried, convicted, and sentenced for the crime. Schmude was called as a witness for the prosecution at Student B's trial and she revealed her relationships with Student A and Student B.

Lisa Schmude declined to be interviewed by SCI investigators. However, in her testimony, she admitted to visiting Student A's residence and being aware of Student A's crush on Student B. She denied allowing them to kiss in her classroom and denied making statements which confirmed her knowledge of Student B's involvement in the shooting incident.

The Office of the Special Commissioner of Investigation has recommended that the DOE terminate the employment of Lisa Schmude.

Special Commissioner Condon is a Deputy Commissioner to Department of Investigation Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn.