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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, in 2005, 37-year-old Johnny Cuevas, a teacher at A. Philip Randolph High School in Manhattan, had an inappropriate relationship with a female student who was then 18-years-old. Specifically, he and the girl were in the Dominican Republic during spring break in 2005 and were interacting as if they were a couple. After his reassignment from the school pending the outcome of the investigation, Cuevas also had inappropriate contact with a 16-year-old female student. Specifically, Cuevas made improper comments to the girl during a telephone conversation and also "chatted" with her over the Internet.

The investigation also found that, shortly after spring break in 2005, Randolph Principal Maurice Collins became aware that Cuevas had been with the female student in the Dominican Republic. He failed to report the information to the Special Commissioner's office and handled the matter himself. Collins maintained that he spoke with both Cuevas and the female student and concluded that "nothing happened." Collins compounded his errors when the allegation resurfaced in January 2006. Knowing that the SCI investigation was in progress, Collins confronted Cuevas about statements he had made to the Special Commissioner's investigators. Cuevas, for his part, contended that Collins caused him to lie to investigators initially and that the principal also instructed him to change his statement.

During the investigation, a number of assistant principals provided SCI investigators with detailed accounts of a pivotal cabinet meeting held by Collins in January 2006, called to discuss the Cuevas allegation. However, Assistant Principal Ingrid Buntschuh claimed not to remember the substance of the meeting, although it had occurred only 2 weeks earlier.

Commissioner Condon recommended to Chancellor Klein that both Cuevas and Collins be terminated and made ineligible for future employment in the City's schools. He also recommended that Buntschuh receive disciplinary action for failing to cooperate with the investigation.

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.