

CITY OF NEW YORK
THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF INVESTIGATION
FOR THE NEW YORK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

80 MAIDEN LANE, 20TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10038

RICHARD J. CONDON
SPECIAL COMMISSIONER

Telephone: (212) 510-1400
Fax: (212) 510-1550
WWW.NYCSCI.ORG

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CONTACT: Laurel Wright-Hinckson
(212) 510-1479

Report Released Today - Copies Available

Today, Special Commissioner of Investigation Richard J. Condon released a report detailing an investigation which substantiated that tampering occurred on the June 2008 Integrated Algebra Regents Examination at the High School for Contemporary Arts (“Contemporary Arts”) in the Bronx. The evidence showed that Contemporary Arts Assistant Principal Ruth Ralston, who had control of the multiple choice answer sheets during the relevant time period and lied to investigators about certain important facts, caused student answers to be changed from incorrect to correct.

This investigation resulted from a letter sent to Commissioner Condon by New York State Education Department Assistant Commissioner David Abrams who requested an investigation into the administration and scoring of the June 2008 Integrated Algebra Regents Examination at Contemporary Arts. Assistant Commissioner Abrams reported irregularities on the answer sheets of some of the students who had passed the exam at Contemporary Arts, including a total of 1,013 erasures and changes with 954 – 94% – altering the response from incorrect to correct.

Commissioner Condon recommended that Ruth Ralston’s employment be terminated, that she be made ineligible for work with the Department of Education, and that her conduct be considered should she apply for any position in a New York City public school in the future. He also referred the findings of the investigation to New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau 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.