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Special Commissioner

NEWS RELEASE
February 19, 1997

REPORT ASSAILS 'EGREGIOUS' ATTENDANCE SYSTEM IN DISTRICT 6
AND CRITICIZES ITS FAILURE TO REPORT NEGLECT BY CARLA LOCKWOOD

Special Commissioner Edward F. Stancik today will release a report entitled *NOT FOUND: An Investigation into Carla Lockwood's Neglect and Community School District 6's Failure to Act* at **11:00 a.m.** This report focuses on how, by violating attendance procedure, the schools in District 6 missed whatever chance they may have had to help save a child's life. Carla Lockwood was charged with starving her four-year-old daughter Nadine to death last fall. By that time, school officials had evidence of abuse. Nadine's siblings were absent hundreds of times, yet school officials failed to report this educational neglect to child welfare authorities. In addition, Carla Lockwood was allowed to drag out necessary medical exams and immunizations for her children without being reported for medical neglect.

The investigation, which was not limited to the Lockwood case but which examined attendance procedures district-wide, revealed that officials routinely ignored Chancellor's regulations and state law. Schools did not attempt to locate absent children, lagged in reporting absentees to district officials, and failed to report cases of abuse to the State Central Register hotline. The one district official charged with finding severely absent students made cursory investigations before discharging children as "not found," a category intended only as a last resort following an exhaustive search. This official also falsified documents to make it appear as if he investigated fully.

The report makes a number of recommendations, including disciplinary action against eight BOE officials and policy changes in District 6 and across the city. Commissioner Stancik urges *all principals and superintendents* to review their compliance with attendance policy and asks that Chancellor Crew take this into account when deciding whether to renew their contracts. If enacted, these reforms will ensure better attendance services at the BOE and help prevent future tragedies.