CITY OF NEW YORK

THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF INVESTIGATION FOR THE NEW YORK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 80 Maiden Lane. 20th floor

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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 Dianne Fultz – who is also known as Dianne Kinsella and Dianne Fultz Kinsella – a teacher assigned to Port Richmond High School on Staten Island, misappropriated more than \$2,000 in funds from the school's robotics program. In addition, money collected at a fundraiser was never credited to the robotics' account.

The investigation found that Fultz, who is the advisor of the robotics program at the school, submitted false invoices to obtain reimbursement for purchases she claimed to have made for the club. Many of the false documents were in the name of her husband, James Kinsella.

The investigation also determined that Fultz enlisted a former student, who was a member of the robotics program, to create false receipts which Fultz used for reimbursement. The former student purchased items for Fultz using his parents' credit and debits cards and gave Fultz the receipts which she submitted for her own reimbursement. The former student spent \$2,000 to \$3,000 of his parents' money, but received only about 10% of that amount in reimbursements from Fultz. She kept the remaining funds.

Student members of the robotics club do not pay to participate. The program is primarily funded through donations and outside sponsors, including the Port Authority of NY and NJ and the Richmond County Savings Foundation.

The Special Commissioner recommended that Fultz's employment be terminated and that she be made ineligible for work in the City school system. He also referred the findings of the investigation to Richmond County District Attorney Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.

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.