

CITY OF NEW YORK
THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF INVESTIGATION
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Edward F. Stancik
Special Commissioner

NEWS RELEASE
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**PRESS CONFERENCE AT 11 A.M.
25 BROADWAY, 8TH FLOOR**

Doctor Who Lost License For Sexual Misconduct Is Hired By the BOE Without Background Check

Edward F. Stancik, Special Commissioner of Investigation for the New York City School District, today released the results of his investigation regarding the employment of Franklin Simon, a biology teacher at Murry Bergtraum High School in Manhattan. Simon's bizarre history included misconduct of a sexual nature which caused him to lose his license to practice medicine as a psychiatrist.

According to Special Commissioner Stancik, Simon, 60 years old, did not provide a résumé or references, left blank the application section about prior employment, and lied about his past. Nevertheless, the New York City Board of Education hired Simon almost immediately, without any check into his background. Stancik's investigation found that the BOE has no uniform procedure in place to review an applicant's history or check the status of past professional licenses. In fact, this case is at least the third time that the Special Commissioner has criticized the BOE's failure to adequately screen prospective applicants, and formally recommended substantial improvements. The previous recommendations went unheeded.

In a letter to Chancellor Harold Levy, Commissioner Stancik recommended that Simon continue to be barred from working for the BOE – his employment was terminated after his office alerted school officials to the investigation. Noting that the safety of schoolchildren was at stake, he once again urged the BOE to develop proper procedures to probe an applicant's background.