

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

ANASTASIA COLEMAN
SPECIAL COMMISSIONER

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 26, 2019

CONTACT: Regina Gluzmanova
(212) 510-1479

**INVESTIGATION INTO A DOE PRINCIPAL'S FAILURE TO
SUPERVISE THAT RESULTED IN A SIX-YEAR OLD STUDENT
MISSING FROM A BROOKLYN SCHOOL**

Today, Special Commissioner of Investigation Anastasia Coleman released a report detailing the findings of an investigation concerning a 6-year-old male student with special needs who walked through an unalarmed exit door at Public School 24 in Brooklyn, while enrolled in a summer program in 2018. The boy exited the cafeteria, which was under the supervision of Principal Annabell Burrell, who resigned during the course of this investigation. The student was later found, unescorted, in a nearby subway station by a Good Samaritan who called 911.

Special Commissioner Coleman extends her sincere gratitude to the Good Samaritan, Deborah Kolben, who recognized a child in potential danger and called for help. Commissioner Coleman added, "We are grateful for Ms. Kolben's vigilance and commitment to getting the student safely back to school. We hope that others follow Ms. Kolben's example and help keep the children of the New York City School District safe."

Commissioner Coleman reminds all Department of Education personnel the importance of adhering to department door alarm and students safety policies. Commissioner explains, "Although this young student was safely returned to school, it is extremely important for school staff members to stay current on safety policies and protocols such as Avonte's Law."