CITY OF NEW YORK

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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 Shango Blake, Principal of IS 109 in Queens, misappropriated school funds. Between May 2005 and June 2006, more than $30,000 was collected from students for school lunches, graduation expenses, and snack sales, but those funds were misused or missing. The Department of Education Office of School Food, the cap and gown vendor, and the snack vendor were not paid and there were no funds in the school's bank account. Principal Blake could not account for the $30,000 and offered no reasonable explanation for not paying the bills for which the money had been collected.

In the course of the financial investigation, a complaint of corporal punishment was made against Blake. The investigation of that allegation found that Principal Blake assaulted a 13-year-old male student who made a comment about Blake's son.

The Special Commissioner has recommended that Shango Blake's employment be terminated and that he be made ineligible for work in the City school system. Disciplinary action was recommended for two IS 109 employees who were present when Blake punched and choked the male student, but denied that anything occurred.

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.