

January 31, 2001

Hon. Harold O. Levy  
Chancellor  
New York City Public Schools  
110 Livingston Street; Room 1010  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Re: Irwin Goldberg  
SCI Case #2000-3114

Dear Chancellor Levy:

An investigation conducted by this office has substantiated that fifty-three-year-old Irwin Goldberg, a teacher and a dean at Adlai Stevenson High School (“Stevenson”) in the Bronx, sexually abused a male student (“Student A”) at that school.<sup>1</sup> Goldberg engaged in frequent acts of sodomy with the victim between 1981 and 1984 when he attended the school. Moreover, when confronted by thirty-four-year-old Student A, the dean not only admitted his conduct, but also exposed his penis while seeking to have a new sexual encounter with the now adult victim.

This investigation began when Student A told a New York City Police Department (“NYPD”) Sgt., who had been assigned to Stevenson in the 1980s, about his sexual relationship with Goldberg whom he believed still worked at the school. The Sgt. forwarded the information to a detective in the Bronx Special Victims Unit, who conferred with the District Attorney’s Office. After an Assistant District Attorney determined that the crimes could not be prosecuted because the statute of limitations had expired, the NYPD referred the complaint to this office.

Student A described his relationship with the dean. According to him, shortly after transferring to Stevenson in 1981 when he was fifteen-years-old, Goldberg approached him and “rubbed” against him. Shortly thereafter, he lured Student A into sexual acts including oral and

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<sup>1</sup> On December 18, 2000, pending the outcome of this investigation, Goldberg was assigned to administrative duties at Theodore Roosevelt High School.

anal sex. These criminal acts took place in the dean's office or empty classrooms at the school and at an apartment belonging to Goldberg's mother, when she was out of town. The encounters lasted until Student A graduated in 1984.

Under the supervision of our investigators, Student A recorded three conversations with Goldberg, which took place inside Stevenson during the school day. During the meetings, the dean referred to their prior sexual acts and also pulled out his penis to offer Student A the opportunity for new sexual activity. A review of the recorded information revealed the following:

- During the first meeting, Goldberg referred to past encounters, saying: "I used to fuck you up the ass, right?" Incredibly, in a school corridor, he then pulled out his penis and implored Student A to "suck me a minute" and to "just taste it." Although they were alone at that moment, Stevenson was fully populated with students and staff.
- On the second occasion, Goldberg was insistent upon having an immediate sexual experience with Student A. Using a seductive tone, he attempted to entice the victim, saying: "Come here for a second. ...Please come hold me." Although the dean claimed he could not have a new relationship with him, Goldberg made tentative plans to meet Student A at an apartment on Tuesday of the following week.
- During the final conversation, Goldberg claimed to have called the wrong number on Tuesday, but he and Student A set up another rendezvous for the following Saturday. Talking about the 1980s, the dean expressed disbelief that the victim was fifteen-years-old at the time and suggested that he had been seventeen-years-old. According to Goldberg, he had not "fooled around with kids" for more than ten years. Ironically, he asserted: "Plus there's been so much publicity about problems with teachers and students that I would – I would be scared to do it now."

Following that final conversation, investigators interviewed Irwin Goldberg who admitted, orally and in writing, to committing sexual acts with the victim when he was a student at Stevenson. Although by the victim's account he was fifteen-years-old when the encounters began, the dean claimed that the boy was seventeen-years-old at the time. Goldberg described being "sexually stimulated" whenever he saw Student A in the hallway and, although he knew what he did was "wrong," he allowed his "sexual emotions" to take over. The dean admitted that he had the boy perform "fellatio" upon him behind the closed doors of the dean's office at Stevenson and had anal sex with Student A at his mother's apartment. According to Goldberg: "My only explanation is that I have gay tendencies that I try to control."

According to Student A, during the period when he was being abused, he complained about Goldberg's conduct to Steven Shapiro who was then a teacher at Stevenson. Investigators located Shapiro, now a teacher and an assistant principal at Stuyvesant High School in Manhattan, who acknowledged that Student A disclosed that he was having an "affair" with Goldberg. According to Shapiro, he kept the information to himself because he did not trust the school's administration. We note that this office had not yet been created and the obligation to report such allegations did not exist.

Although Irwin Goldberg cannot be prosecuted, his inexcusable acts of sexual abuse toward Student A were criminal and horribly wrong. Moreover, with a population of schoolchildren and fellow staff nearby, his reaction upon seeing Student A inside Stevenson some sixteen years later was to display his penis and to seek additional sexual activity with his now adult victim. He has no place in the City's public school system. It is therefore the recommendation of this office that Goldberg's employment be terminated and that this matter be considered should he apply for any type of reemployment with the Board of Education.

We are forwarding a copy of this letter and of our report concerning this investigation to the Office of Legal Services. We are also forwarding a copy of our report concerning this investigation to the State Education Department for whatever action they deem appropriate. Should you have any inquiries regarding the above, please contact First Deputy Commissioner Regina Loughran, the attorney assigned to the case. She can be reached at (212) 510-1426. Please notify First Deputy Commissioner Loughran within thirty days of receipt of this letter of what, if any, action has been taken or is contemplated against Irwin Goldberg. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

EDWARD F. STANCIK  
Special Commissioner  
of Investigation for the  
New York City School District

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Regina A. Loughran  
First Deputy Commissioner

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c: Chad Vignola, Esq.