

City of New York
**THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF INVESTIGATION
FOR THE NEW YORK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**
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New York, New York 10038

Anastasia Coleman
Special Commissioner

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October 2, 2020

Hon. Richard Carranza
Chancellor
New York City Public Schools
Department of Education
52 Chambers Street, Room 314
New York, NY 10007

Re: Miroslaw Wysocki
SCI Case #: 2020-0768

Dear Chancellor Carranza:

An investigation conducted by this office has substantiated that Miroslaw Wysocki, a New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) teacher assigned to Public School 227 (“P.S. 227”) in Brooklyn, operated a private tutoring website while employed by the DOE. In addition, Wysocki used his DOE email on over 150 occasions to communicate with outside agencies, make complaints about non-DOE related matters that involved his children, and as part of his private tutoring business.¹

I. Investigation and Findings:

In January 2020, the office of the Special Commissioner of Investigation for the New York City School District (“SCI”) received a complaint from [REDACTED] who reported that Wysocki used his DOE e-mail to “communicate with and harass” [REDACTED] [REDACTED] with issues he experienced as a parent. [REDACTED] complaint also indicated that Wysocki responded to personal emails related to his tutoring business with his DOE email, that included “finallyunderstand.com” in his signature line.²

¹ Wysocki was not reassigned during the course of this investigation. Wysocki’s picture, name, and several certificates are located on the website: Finallyunderstand.com.

² [REDACTED]

During the course of the investigation the assigned investigator reviewed finallyunderstand.com, and found that the website was established in 2008 and listed ██████████ as the owner. In addition, a job posting indicated that the position would report to Miroslaw Wysocki, who was listed as “Founder and CEO.”

SCI investigators spoke with ██████████ who confirmed that she received numerous emails from Wysocki from his personal and DOE email accounts, that she considered to be “harassment.”

SCI investigators also reviewed emails sent from Wysocki’s DOE email address, and found that he sent numerous emails that mentioned finallyunderstand.com, which was also included in his signature line. Wysocki sent several emails to the DOE to request an immunization waiver for his child, ██████████ (“Student A”), and to make complaints related to Student A and ██████████ (“Student B”). Lastly, Wysocki sent several emails to various New York City agencies with YouTube links to videos related to immunizations.³

SCI investigators spoke with Wysocki who conceded that he “ran” finallyunderstand.com, a tutoring service that he said operated worldwide. Wysocki also confirmed that he used his DOE e-mail account to send emails related to his business because people “were not responding” to his personal emails, or they ended up in his spam folder. Further, he acknowledged that the emails he sent from his DOE account included finallyunderstand.com in his signature line, however, he said that he did not intend to “promote his business.” Lastly, Wysocki said that he believed that the DOE would be “more responsive” to his complaints regarding Students A and B, if they were sent from his DOE email.⁴

II. Conclusion and Recommendations:

Wysocki, by his own admission, misused his DOE e-mail address to communicate with other New York City agencies regarding his personal beliefs, to complain about matters related to his children, and to communicate with outside entities about his private business. It is the recommendation of this office that the DOE take appropriate disciplinary action regarding Wysocki.

We also note that the conduct of Miroslaw Wysocki may have violated the conflicts of interest provisions of the New York City Charter which is administered by the New York City Conflicts of Interest Board.

We are sending a copy of this letter to the Office of Legal Services. We are also sending a copy of this letter to the New York State Education Department. Should you have any inquiries

³ Investigators found a total of 171 emails that referenced finallyunderstand.com.

⁴ Wysocki also voluntarily provided a written statement.

concerning this matter, please contact Robert Revzin, the attorney assigned to this case, at (212) 510-1440 or at rrevzin@nycsci.org. Please notify SCI in writing within 30 days of receipt of this letter of what, if any, action has been taken or is contemplated with respect to Miroslaw Wysocki. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

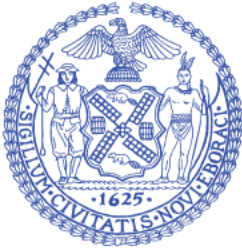
Sincerely,

ANASTASIA COLEMAN
Special Commissioner of Investigation
for the New York City School District

By: /s/ Daniel I. Schlachet
Daniel I. Schlachet
First Deputy Commissioner

AC:DS:RR:ss

c: Karen Antoine, Esq.
Katherine Rodi, Esq.



CITY OF NEW YORK CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BOARD

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April 15, 2021

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Mirosław Wysocki
Teacher
New York City Department of Education

Re: COIB Case No. 2020-454

Dear Mr. Wysocki:

The New York City Conflicts of Interest Board (the “Board”) is issuing this letter to you in connection with your use of your City email account for a private purpose. You have agreed to make this letter public in order to provide guidance to other public servants.

You have been employed by the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) since September 18, 2017, as a math and science teacher. As such, you are a “public servant” within the meaning of and subject to the City’s conflicts of interest law, contained in Chapter 68 of the New York City Charter (“Chapter 68”). From 2008 to 2020, you operated FinallyUnderstand.com, a private tutoring website that offered courses in mathematics, science, and technology. While some of the content on the website was available for free, a paid subscription was needed to access other content. Between April 30, 2019, and January 28, 2020, you used your DOE email account to send and receive 30 emails related to FinallyUnderstand.com. In these emails, you communicated with the website administrator for FinallyUnderstand.com regarding billing issues, site modifications, and possible hacking.

The City’s conflicts of interest law, specifically City Charter § 2604(b)(2), pursuant to Board Rules § 1-13(b), prohibits City employees, like you, from using City resources for a private business. The Board has determined that you violated City Charter § 2604(b)(2), pursuant to Board Rules § 1-13(b), when you used your DOE email account to send emails related to your tutoring website.

Under City Charter § 2606, the Board may impose civil fines of up to \$25,000 and other penalties on a person who violates the City’s conflicts of interest law. However, the Board has concluded that it will not impose a fine

for these violations under the particular circumstances presented here, in particular that you used your DOE email account to communicate with your website administrator concerning internal website issues and not to communicate with any client of your business or to promote or gain business for your website.

The Board is issuing this public letter as its final disposition of this matter to provide guidance to other public servants in similar situations and to serve as a formal reminder of the importance of strict compliance with the City's conflicts of interest law. Precise compliance with Chapter 68 avoids even the appearance of impropriety and helps to strengthen public confidence in City officials.

In the future, if you have questions about the City's conflicts of interest law, call (212) 442-1400 or visit the Board's website at <http://nyc.gov/ethics>.

Very truly yours,



Jeffrey D. Friedlander
Chair

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I, Miroslaw Wysocki, hereby waive any right I may have to confidentiality in the above-referenced matter and thereby permit the Board to make this document public. I represent that I have entered this agreement freely, knowingly, and intentionally without coercion or duress and have had the opportunity to be represented by the attorney of my choice and have declined that opportunity.

Dated: 04.05.2021


Miroslaw Wysocki
Respondent