



GAINESVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

**800 S. Morris Street
Gainesville, Texas
940.665.4362
940.668.0354 (fax)
www.gainesvilleisd.org**

February 26, 2025

Summary of Findings – Investigation Involving Student JRC

Following an in-depth investigation, including multiple discussions with faculty, staff and students, Gainesville ISD has concluded that student JRC was impacted by a bullying incident involving another student on campus. At the request of JRC's family, GISD refrained from making public statements while she was hospitalized and in the immediate days following her passing, honoring their wishes. During this time, false statements circulated on social media regarding the district's silence. Now that the district investigation is complete, GISD is sharing the findings.

This matter first came to the administration's attention during a classroom visit. It was reported, on January 30, 2025, to the principal upon entering a classroom that the whole class was speaking about ICE and that JRC had something she wanted to tell the principal. The teacher had JRC speak to the campus principal in the doorway before entering the classroom about a situation that occurred on the bus. JRC reported that a student on the bus was making remarks regarding ICE and deportation to a group of Hispanic students.

The following day, the Director of Transportation submitted a bus referral to the Assistant Principal confirming the students' remarks reported by JRC. The remarks made were directed at a group of Hispanic students and not JRC who was not seated with the group but was close enough to hear the remarks. It was found during this investigation that this was not a one-time occurrence.

The student was identified, interviewed, and disciplinary consequences were issued by campus administration on January 31, 2025, in accordance with the GISD Student Code of Conduct.

Following this, JRC appeared to have a positive remainder of the week and attended a birthday party on Saturday. Witness statements from attendees indicated that she was in good spirits and enjoyed the event.

On February 4, 2025, GISD was informed by a member of the family that JRC had been hospitalized due to an accident. On February 5, 2025, students began reporting that JRC and her brother had been bullied, prompting an internal investigation which began on February 6, 2025.

During student interviews, additional concerns surfaced. It was reported by multiple students that JRC told them that she had been inappropriately touched by a family member and wished to keep this a secret to avoid getting them in trouble. Given the presence of four other school-aged children in the home, GISD was legally required to report this to CPS. The CPS investigation is ongoing.

Furthermore, it was disclosed that JRC had previously expressed thoughts of self-harm to a cousin, who informed JRC's mother. However, this information was never shared with school officials, preventing the district from providing necessary resources and intervention.

In a one-on-one meeting with the school Counselor on October 16, 2024, requested by the student, JRC shared concerns about getting in trouble at home and mentioned that her siblings called her names. However, she did not report any bullying. Prior to JRC's hospitalization, no official bullying report had been filed with the school that would have triggered the district's bullying investigation protocols, which include student interviews, parent contact, and disciplinary action.

JRC was also a participant in a social-emotional learning (SEL) group led by the GISD SEL Counselor. While her mother initially stated she was unaware of her daughter's participation, the district has a signed permission slip authorizing her involvement. JRC was selected for the group based on the "Youth Needs Screener," an evidence-based self-reporting assessment used to evaluate students' social-emotional needs.

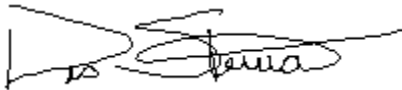
JRC attended the SEL group sessions on **October 23, October 30, November 6, November 13, January 15, January 22, and January 29**. The sessions, consisting of five female students, focused on coping strategies for managing distressing emotions. Topics included reframing thoughts, relaxation techniques, focused breathing, and separating emotions from rational thoughts.

The bullying investigation was concluded on February 12, 2025. The following day Jocelynn's mother was notified that bullying of JRC by another student was confirmed. The student was disciplined in accordance with the GISD Student Code of Conduct.

GISD has remained fully supportive of the family throughout this difficult time. The district's schools, PTO groups, and staff donations have contributed thousands of dollars, as well as gift cards and food to support the family's needs. Additionally, I personally met with the mother and a family member to address any questions they had regarding the investigation.

Gainesville ISD takes the safety and well-being of all students, faculty, and staff very seriously. We remain committed to addressing concerns swiftly and consistently. As a reminder, we ask that if any student sees, hears, or believes that a fellow student may need support, that they promptly alert a staff member or administrator so that appropriate resources can be provided.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DesMontes Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

DesMontes Stewart, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Gainesville ISD