

School City of Hammond

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Scott E. Miller, Superintendent

9/23/2019

****For Immediate Release****

Description:

At approximately 11:00 PM on Sunday, September 22, 2019, School City of Hammond district administration became aware of a viral video that depicted a Morton High School student yelling and cursing at a teacher while making an accusation that the teacher had used the “N-word”.

Investigation Process:

Upon receiving the information, district administration immediately secured the video and after review, placed the teacher on administrative leave. Students, teachers and administrators were interviewed to secure statements and findings were reported to the superintendent.

Investigation Findings:

On Thursday, September 20, an African American student referred to another African American student as a “N***a” during class.

The classroom teacher was upset by the use of the term and made the statement “I’m tired of people using the word “N***r” in my class”

Students in the class expressed offense by the comment and usage of the word.

A student in the class began recording on a cell phone as another student confronted the teacher about the use of the word.

The situation began to escalate as the confronting student became angry and rejected the teacher’s attempts to explain himself.

When finished speaking, the student left the room.

Course of Action:

Disciplinary action was taken in accordance with the personnel guidelines for progressive discipline which include options of written documentation, suspension and termination.

At School City of Hammond, we embrace diversity and strive to provide excellence in learning that leads to success in life.

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