STATE OF FLORIDA DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

PALM BEACH COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD,

CASE NO. 15-6467 TTS

Petitioner,

٧.

MICHELLE WHITCO,

FINAL ORDER

THIS CAUSE, came before The School Board of Palm Beach County, Florida (hereinafter referred to as "SCHOOL BOARD") pursuant to §120.569 and §120.57, Fla. Stat., after an administrative hearing was conducted before the Honorable Robert E. Meale on May 24, 2016. The Recommended Order was entered by the Honorable Robert E. Meale on August 16, 2016, recommending that a final order be entered by the Palm Beach County School Board issuing a verbal reprimand with a written notation instead of the proposed one-day's suspension, and denying Respondent's claim for back pay.

IT IS ORDERED AND ADJUDGED as follows:

- 1. That the Board has jurisdiction of this matter pursuant to §120.57, Fla. Stat.
- 2. That the Board hereby accepts and approves the findings, conclusion and recommendations of the Recommended Order dated August 16, 2016, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.
- That this Final Order shall take effect upon being filed with the Clerk of the School Board.

DONE and ORDERED this day of January, 2017.

The School Board of Palm Beach County, Florida

Chuck Shaw, Chairman

Robert M. Avossa, Ed.D., Superintendent

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO JUDICIAL REVIEW

This Final Order constitutes final agency action. Any party who is adversely affected by this Final Order has the right to seek judicial review of the Final Order pursuant to Section 120.68, Fla. Stat. Review proceedings are governed by the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure. Such proceedings are commenced by filing one copy of a notice of appeal with the agency clerk of The School Board of Palm Beach County, Florida, and a second copy, accompanied by appropriate filing fees as prescribed by law, with Fourth District Court of Appeals, or with the District Court of Appeal in the Appellate District, where the party resides, if applicable. The notice of appeal must be filed within thirty (30) days of rendition of the Order to be reviewed.

Respectfully submitted this / day of

Julie Ann Rico, Esq.

General Counsel for The School Board

of Palm Beach County, Florida

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document has been delivered by Electronic Mail to: nick@tilawpa.com Nick Caggia, Esq., Law Office of Thomas Johnson, P.A., this 24 day of January, 2017.

> SCHOOL BOARD OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA Office of General Counsel JulieAnn Rico, Esquire 3300 Forest Hill Boulevard, Suite C-323 West Palm Beach, Florida 33406 Telephone: 561.434.8750

Facsimile: 561.434.8105

jean.middleton@palmbeachschools.org vericcia.mccreary@palmbeachschools.org tish.pickens@palmbeachschools.org

By: <u>/s/ Electronically filed</u>

JEAN MARIE MIDDLETON, ESQ.

Florida Bar No.: 147532