

Special Commissioner of Investigation
February 5, 2008
School Secretaries Steal Funds

Page 2

Both secretaries, under the guise of purchasing items for the school, used the school's P-card to order personal items which included but were not limited to printers and other computer equipment, jewelry, video games, a 19 inch television, a portable DVD player, clothing, cigarettes, light beer, holiday decorations, and personalized gifts. During the three year period, these items, among the many others which are detailed in the report, were shipped to Boucher's home, to her summer residence, to Scriven's home, and to the residences of their family members and friends.

Both Boucher and Scriven received unauthorized per session payments, totaling more than \$115,000, for assignments they claimed to have performed after school hours. These hours were not authorized and much of the work did not take place. For example, in two instances, Boucher collected per session payments for more than 30 hours of work she would have completed while on vacation in Florida.

Commissioner Condon criticized the DOE for its lack of oversight which allowed the schemes to continue for three school years. He recommended that the DOE review its financial controls and report back to him with changes that will uncover and prevent such rampant corruption in the future.

Commissioner Condon has referred his findings to Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson for whatever action he deems appropriate. The Special Commissioner also recommended to the Chancellor that both Karen Boucher and Renee Scriven be terminated from employment with the DOE and that both be made ineligible for work in the City school system.

The Office of the Special Commissioner of Investigation is part of the New York City Department of Investigation and Special Commissioner Condon reports to Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn.