GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BOARD OF ETHICS AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

Office of Government Ethics

In Re: S. Hamlin
Case No. 25-0116-P

NEGOTIATED DISPOSITION

Pursuant to section 221(a)(4)(A)(v)[1] of the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability Establishment and Comprehensive Ethics Reform Amendment Act of 2011 ("Ethics Act"), effective April 27, 2012 (D.C. Law 19 -12 4, D.C. Official Code § 1 -1161.01 et seq.), the Office of Government Ethics ("the Office" or "OGE") hereby enters this Negotiated Disposition with the Respondent, S. Hamlin. Respondent agrees that the resulting disposition is a settlement of the above-titled action, detailed as follows:

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

Respondent was employed with the Office of the State Superintendent of Education ("OSSE") as a Program Analyst from November 2021 to September 2025. At OSSE, he managed the programming and financial aspects of the State Personnel Development Grant, which is a federal grant used to help state education agencies train personnel to better support children with disabilities. Respondent is also the owner of SPEDtacular Education Solutions, LLC ("SES"), which is a consulting business that focuses on special education training for educators and professional development.

In May 2022, Respondent submitted a proposal on behalf of SES to the School Without Walls, a magnet high school within the District of Columbia Public School ("DCPS") system. The proposal indicated that SES was to provide oversight and support of the school's special education caseload as well as support with annual Individual Education Program ("IEP") development and IEP meetings. The proposed services were quoted at $5000. The school agreed to the terms but at a cost of $2500. SES agreed to the new amount and rendered the services accordingly.

In October 2023, Respondent submitted another proposal to the School Without Walls on behalf of SES. The proposal's scope of work included services for a professional development session, evaluation walk-through, and program evaluation summary report. The expected period of

[1] Section 221(a)(4)(A)(v) of the Ethics Act provides, "[i]n addition to any civil penalty imposed under this title, a violation of the Code of Conduct may result in the following: . . . [a] negotiated disposition of a matter offered by the Director of Government Ethics, and accepted by the respondent, subject to approval by the Ethics Board."

service was from October 2023 through June 2024. The proposed services were quoted at $20,000. The school agreed to the terms and the proposed cost. SES rendered the services accordingly.

Respondent subsequently submitted invoices to the School Without Walls for each of the proposals. He submitted them using the DC Vendor Portal, an electronic invoice processing platform for vendors and contractors doing business with District Government. OGE obtained copies of purchase order invoices that Respondent submitted via the portal.

In an interview with OGE staff, Respondent confirmed he is the founder and owner of SES. He also confirmed that he entered into the two aforementioned consulting arrangements with the School Without Walls and submitted proposal documents to them on behalf of SES.

II. NATURE OF VIOLATIONS

Respondent violated the following provisions of the District Personnel Manual ("DPM"):

Count One: Serving in a representative capacity or as an agent or attorney for any outside entity involving any matter before the District of Columbia in violation of DPM § 1807.1.(h).

- In May 2022, Respondent violated this rule when he submitted a $5,000 proposal and $2,500 invoice to School Without Walls, a DCPS high school, on behalf of SPEDtacular Education Solutions, LLC. School ("SES"). Respondent acted as agent of SES, an outside entity, on a matter before DCPS, a District government agency.

Count Two: Serving in a representative capacity or as an agent or attorney for any outside entity involving any matter before the District of Columbia in violation of DPM § 1807.1.(h).

- In June 2023, Respondent violated this rule when he submitted a $20,000 proposal and corresponding invoice to School Without Walls, a DCPS high school, on behalf of SPEDtacular Education Solutions, LLC. School ("SES"). Respondent acted as agent of SES, an outside entity, on a matter before DCPS, a District government agency.

None of the above-referenced actions were authorized by the District of Columbia. Respondent acknowledges that his conduct was a violation of the Code of Conduct.

III. TERMS OF THE NEGOTIATED DISPOSTION

Respondent admits that his conduct violated the District's Code of Conduct. Respondent agrees to pay a total fine of $3,000 to resolve this matter, in accordance with the following terms and conditions:

1. Respondent agrees to make a lump sum payment of **$3,000 on or before July 17, 2026**, via certified check or money order, made out to the D.C. Treasurer, delivered to and received by OGE at 441 4th Street NW, Suite 830 South, Washington, DC 20001 or by electronic payment at **https://dcwebforms.dc.gov/pay/bega1/ using transaction ID 25-0116-P**;

In consideration of Respondent's acknowledgement and agreement, OGE will seek no further remedy and will take no further action related to the above misconduct. By agreeing to settle this matter via a negotiated disposition, Respondent will allow OGE to avoid expending significant time and resources to litigate this matter through a contested hearing, and to focus its finite resources on other investigations. Respondent waives his right to proceed to an adversarial hearing in this matter and voluntarily, knowingly, and understandingly consents to the Board's imposition of a fine against him in this matter.

Respondent also understands that if he fails to pay the $3,000 fine in the manner and within the time limit provided above, pursuant to section 221(a)(5)(A) of the Ethics Act (D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.21(a)(5)(A)), the Ethics Board may file a petition in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for enforcement of this Negotiated Disposition and the accompanying Board Order assessing the fine. Respondent agrees that this Negotiated Disposition is not just an admission of wrongdoing but constitutes various factual admissions that may be used in any subsequent enforcement or judicial proceeding that may result from failure to comply with this agreement.

Respondent knowingly and willingly waives the right to appeal the accompanying Board Order imposing a fine in this matter in exchange for the concessions made by this Office in this Negotiated Disposition. Respondent further understands that failure to adhere to this agreement, OGE may instead, at its sole option, send any unpaid fine amount to collections or recommend that the Ethics Board nullify this settlement and hold an open and adversarial hearing on this matter, after which the Ethics Board may impose sanctions up to the full statutory amount ($5,000.00 per violation) as provided in the Ethics Act for each violation.[2] Because OGE is, at this time, foregoing requesting that the Ethics Board hold an open and adversarial hearing on this matter, Respondent waives any statute of limitation defenses should the Ethics Board decide to proceed in that manner as a result of Respondent's breach of this agreement.

The mutual promises outlined herein constitute the entire agreement in this case. Failure to adhere to any provision of this agreement is a breach rendering the entire agreement voidable at the Board's discretion. By our signatures, we agree to the terms outlined above.

[redacted]

July 7, 2026

S. Hamlin
Respondent

Date

[2] Section 221(a)(1) (D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.21(a)(1)).

Ashley Cooks

7/9/2026

ASHLEY COOKS — Date

Director of Government Ethics

This agreement shall not be deemed effective unless and until it is approved by the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability, as demonstrated by the signature of the Chairperson below.

APPROVED:

Norma B. Hutcheson

7/9/2026

NORMA HUTCHESON — Date

Chairperson, Board of Ethics and Government Accountability

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BOARD OF ETHICS AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

Office of Government Ethics

IN RE: [redacted] **Respondent**	**CASE No.: 25-0116-P**

ORDER

Based upon the mutual representations and promises contained in the Negotiated Disposition approved by the Board on July 9, 2026, and upon the entire record in this case; it is, therefore: ORDERED that Respondent pay a civil penalty in the amount of **THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS** ($3,000.00).

This Order is effective upon approval by the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability, as demonstrated by the signature of the Chairperson below.

Norma B. Hutcheson

NORMA HUTCHESON

7/9/2026

Date

Chairperson, Board of Ethics and Government Accountability