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Gallup McKinley County Schools Statement on Termination of Sawyer Masonjones

Gallup-McKinley County Schools confirms that teacher Sawyer Masonjones has been terminated following an investigation into serious allegations, including allowing students to vape and use THC during class without reporting, neglecting instructional duties, and engaging in inappropriate student interactions. These actions were immediately reported to law enforcement and the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department.

The GMCS School Board upheld the superintendent’s termination decision following a two-day public hearing. During the hearing, Masonjones admitted to not following proper classroom discipline and policy enforcement. To view the public hearings, click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZzgNh0Ekd70&t=19433s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y8AxSMXDX8U&t=20448s>

“Permitting drug use in a classroom is a serious breach of responsibility,” said Superintendent Mike Hyatt. “We acted swiftly, investigated thoroughly, and referred the matter to the proper authorities... We want to be clear: Mr. Masonjones is not representative of the dedicated and professional educators of GMCS.”

The district is also disappointed in recent comments by New Mexico American Federation of Teachers Union President Whitney Holland, who suggested that teachers should be allowed to prioritize union activities during instructional time. That belief undermines the core responsibility of every educator—to teach and protect students.

GMCS remains committed to student safety, accountability, and high standards in every classroom.

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