# OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN Quarterly Report January 1, 2023 – March 31, 2023



### **Office Overview**

The Prince William County Public Schools (PWCS) Office of the Ombudsman operates in accordance with the International Ombuds<sup>1</sup> Association (IOA) Code of Ethics and adheres to the following principles:



#### Confidentiality~Impartiality~Independence~Informality

The Ombudsman's office seeks to empower those who contact the office to resolve issues on their own if possible. Depending on the situation, the Ombudsman's office may utilize different methods/techniques to help the visitor<sup>2</sup>. Some of the common methods/techniques used include:

- · Listens and helps clarify visitor concerns
- Provides information and explores available options
- · Identifies underlying issues and interests
- Facilitates discussions to resolve issues

While the Ombudsman's office can assist most individuals, there are some actions the Ombudsman **CANNOT** take, such as:

- Act as an individual's advocate
- · Serve as a formal office of legal notice for PWCS
- Conduct formal investigations
- Maintain records

To learn about the PWCS Office of the Ombudsman and how the office can support you, please visit our <u>website</u>. Visitors are seen by appointment either in-person, virtually, or over the phone. Please contact the office in one of the following ways to schedule an appointment:

#### Email: <u>ombuds@pwcs.edu</u> Phone: 703-791-8587

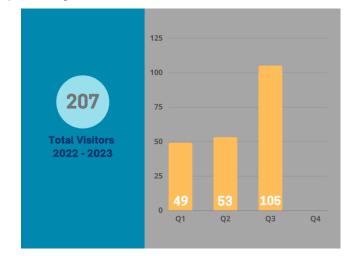
The Ombudsman's office is located at:

Independent Hill Complex 14800 Joplin Road, T 50-01 Manassas, VA 20112

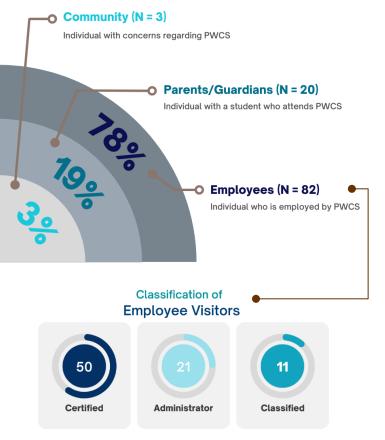
The Ombudsman's office staff is composed of Ombudsman, Monique "Mo" Bookstein and Ombuds Specialist, Rosamaria Manzines.

### **Data Review**

The Office of the Ombudsman continues to provide parents, students, employees, and members of the school community with assistance in resolving school-related concerns, conflicts, and issues. A single "case" is defined by the individual who is experiencing the conflict.



# **Visitor Demographics**



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The term "Ombuds" includes all applicable nomenclature in use for an organizational ombudsperson.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>scriptscriptstyle 2}$  The term "visitor" describes those who engage the services of the Ombudsman.

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### **Uniform Reporting Categories**

Below are the IOA Uniform Reporting Categories. This is a list of categories developed by the IOA and used by Ombudsmen around the world to anonymously classify the types of issues brought to their offices and identify trends in requests for services. For a more detailed explanation of these categories, see the Ombudsman's website.

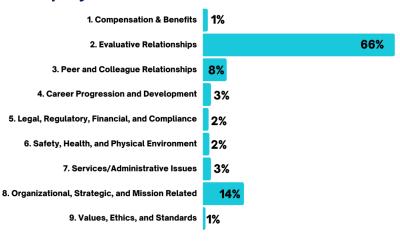
- 1. Compensation and Benefits;
- 2. Evaluative Relationships;
- 3. Peer and Colleague Relationships;
- 4. Career Progression and Development;
- 5. Legal, Regulatory, Financial, and Compliance;
- 6. Safety, Health, and Physical Environment;
- 7. Services/Administrative Issues;
- 8. Organizational, Strategic, and Mission Related; and
- 9. Values, Ethics, and Standards.

### **Uniform Reporting Categories Data**

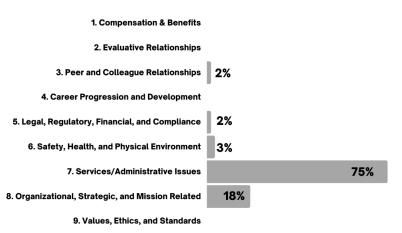
Visitors often express concerns related to more than one category. Within each category there are numerous subcategories. For a more detailed explanation of this data, see the Ombudsman's website.

Specific Issue Category		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1.	Compensation & Benefits	0	0	6	
2.	Evaluative Relationships	91	109	244	
3.	Peer and Colleague Relationships	38	21	31	
4.	Career Progression and Development	16	5	10	
5.	Legal, Regulatory, Financial, and Compliance	4	7	8	
6.	Safety, Health, and Physical Environment	15	21	10	
7.	Services/Administrative Issues	45	42	60	
8.	Organizational, Strategic, and Mission Related	37	40	63	
9.	Values, Ethics, and Standards	0	20	4	

### **Employee Visitors Concerns**



## Parent/Guardian Visitors Concerns



## **Community Visitors Concerns**

 1. Compensation & Benefits

 2. Evaluative Relationships

 3. Peer and Colleague Relationships

 4. Career Progression and Development

 5. Legal, Regulatory, Financial, and Compliance

 6. Safety, Health, and Physical Environment

 7. Services/Administrative Issues

 8. Organizational, Strategic, and Mission Related

9. Values, Ethics, and Standards

80%

20%