

BRITISH COLUMBIA Commissioner for Teacher Regulation

IN THE MATTER OF THE TEACHERS ACT, SBC 2011 c. 19

AND

IN THE MATTER CONCERNING

AMIRA MOUNIR ABRAHAM

CONSENT RESOLUTION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN:

THE COMMISSIONER, APPOINTED UNDER THE TEACHERS ACT

(the "Commissioner")

AND:

AMIRA MOUNIR ABRAHAM

("Abraham")

BACKGROUND and FACTS

- 2. At all material times, Abraham was employed as a teaching on call ("TOC") by School District No. 43 (Coquitlam) (the "District") at a District school (the "School").
- 3. On June 7, 2022, the District made a report to the Commissioner regarding Abraham, under section 16 of the *School Act*.
- 4. The following events occurred on May 9, 2022, when Abraham was a TOC for a Grade 2/3 French immersion class at the School:
 - a. Abraham was asked to mark a class dictée and record the marks.

- b. Abraham decided to show the class a short film while the students were having their snack, during which time Abraham marked the dictée.
- c. Abraham selected an animated short film titled "Life is Beautiful" from the internet and played it for the class while she marked the dictée (the "Film"). Abraham had not seen the Film before and therefore did not know its content before showing it to the class.
- d. The Film is a nine-minute long, age-inappropriate film for the class Abraham was teaching, containing scenes depicting sexual intercourse and suicide.
- e. On two occasions, Abraham became aware that the Film was not age-appropriate. However, she did not intervene or stop the film. Instead, she continued grading.
- 5. On June 6, 2022, the District issued Abraham a letter of discipline and directed her to do the following:
 - a. read and comply with District standards of conduct;
 - b. perform her duties in accordance with the Professional Standards for B.C. Educators;
 - c. conduct her employment responsibilities in a trustworthy, impartial, diligent, and safe manner;
 - d. actively supervise her students and take responsibility for their physical and emotional safety; and
 - e. report any matters of concern with respect to the physical and emotional safety of children without delay to the principal of the school.
- 6. The District had previously issued Abraham a letter of reprimand on February 28, 2019, following allegations that Abraham, as TOC, had failed to adequately supervise a Kindergarten/Grade 1 class.
- 7. On October 26, 2022, the Commissioner considered this matter and determined to propose a consent resolution agreement to Abraham, in accordance with section 53(1)(a) of the *Teachers Act*.

CONSEQUENCES

8. This Agreement is made under section 53 of the *Teachers Act*.

- 9. Abraham understands and acknowledges that this Agreement is not effective until executed by the Commissioner, and that the date of execution by the Commissioner will be the effective date of this Agreement (the "Effective Date").
- 10. Abraham admits that the facts set out in paragraphs 1 to 6 of this Agreement are true.
- 11. Abraham admits that the conduct described in paragraph 5 of this Agreement constitutes professional misconduct and is contrary to Standard #1 of the *Professional Standards for BC Educators*, June 2019.
- 12. Abraham agrees to a reprimand under sections 53 and 64(a) of the *Teachers Act*, which will take effect on the first business day following the Effective Date.
- 13. Abraham agrees under section 64(f) and (h) of the *Teachers Act* that by **March 31, 2024** (the "Condition Date"):
 - a. She will successfully complete the course *Creating a Positive Learning Environment* through the Justice Institute of British Columbia (the "Course") and provide satisfactory proof of completion to the Commissioner by the Condition Date.
 - b. If Abraham does not successfully complete the Course by the Condition Date, she will immediately advise the Commissioner in writing of the reason(s) she has not successfully completed it and set out the date by which she proposes to do so, at which time the Commissioner may extend the Condition Date to a later date (the "Extended Date").
 - c. If Abraham fails to provide satisfactory proof of completion of the Course by the later of the Condition Date or the Extended Date, the Commissioner may require the Director of Certification ("the Director") to suspend Abraham's certificate of qualification under section 64(f) of the *Teachers Act*, until such time as she successfully completes the Course.
- 14. In determining that a reprimand and course condition are appropriate consequences, the Commissioner considered the following factors:
 - a. Abraham failed to establish a positive learning environment by showing a video that was not age-appropriate and by continuing to show the video even after she was aware that it was not appropriate.
 - b. Abraham had been reprimanded previously about her lack of appropriate supervision which jeopardized the emotional wellbeing of her students.
 - c. The students subjected to the inappropriate content were of a particularly vulnerable age, being in Grades 2 and 3.

- d. Abraham has agreed to both seek guidance in the future and to complete an in-person course, to ensure that similar conduct will not be repeated.
- 15. Abraham agrees not to make any statement orally or in writing which contradicts, disputes or calls into question the terms of this Agreement or the admissions made in it.

EFFECT OF THE AGREEMENT

- 16. The Director of Certification will record the terms of this Agreement on the Ministry of Education's online registry under section 79(d) of the *Teachers Act*.
- 17. Abraham acknowledges that this Agreement will be published in accordance with section 54 of the *Teachers Act*, which includes posting the Agreement, in full, on the following website: teacherregulation.gov.bc.ca.
- 18. Notification of this Agreement will be made in accordance with section 55 of the *Teachers Act*.
- 19. A breach by Abraham of any term in this Agreement may constitute professional misconduct which may be the subject of separate discipline proceedings.
- 20. Abraham acknowledges and understands that if the Commissioner has reason to believe that she has breached any term of this Agreement:
 - a. the Commissioner may initiate an investigation under section 47(1)(b) of the *Teachers Act* into her conduct; and
 - b. the conduct and matters described in the "Background and Facts" to this Agreement are admissible in that inquiry as proof that Abraham has admitted to the conduct and matters set out in this Agreement.

Abraham acknowledges that she has voluntarily entered into this Agreement with the Abraham de-benefit of independent legal advice, and that she fully understands the terms and conditions 21.

Signed in <u>Port Coquitlam</u>, B.C. this <u>6</u> day of <u>September</u>, 2023.

Amira Mounir Abraham

Vancouver , B.C. Signed in _ _, 2023. this <u>12</u> day of <u>September</u>

Ana R. Mohammed, Commissioner

Helen Grieve, Director – Professional Conduct for the Commissioner, under her delegation made August 24, 2023