



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

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER CONCERNING  
JOSEPH JAMES HIZON ARNESTO  
CONSENT RESOLUTION SUMMARY**

*This summary is published under section 54(3) of the Teachers Act to protect the identity of a student/students who was/were harmed, abused or exploited by the Teacher.*

1. Arnesto holds a valid Professional Certificate of Qualification. It was issued by the Director of Certification (the “Director”) under the *Teachers Act* on September 16, 2015 and is valid from September 16, 2015.
2. On August 12, 2020, Arnesto signed an undertaking not to practice in any role or position requiring a Ministry of Education Certificate of Qualification, Independent School Teaching Certificate or Letter of Permission as defined in the *Teachers Act*.
3. At all material times, Arnesto was employed as a teacher for grades 7 to 12 by an independent school in B.C. (the “School”).
4. On July 16, 2020, the School Superintendent made a report to the Commissioner regarding Arnesto, under section 7 of the *Independent School Act*.
5. Student A, Student B and Student C had all been Arnesto’s students at the School.
6. When Student A was in Grade 12, Arnesto breached professional boundaries by meeting with Student A over coffee and discussing personal matters, and by exchanging messages through texts, Instagram, Facebook and Snapchat. Shortly after Student A graduated from the School, Arnesto made it clear that he wished to pursue a romantic relationship with Student A.
7. When Student B was in Grade 8, Arnesto began exchanging text, Facebook and Instagram messages with Student B. In some of these exchanges, Arnesto would ask Student B personal questions about Student B’s life and family. Over the next four years, Arnesto

continued to exchange messages with Student B to varying degrees. Less than a week after Student B graduated from the School, Arnesto indicated to Student B that he wanted to pursue a romantic relationship with Student B.

8. When Student C was in Grade 10, Student C and Arnesto began communicating regularly by text message. While some message exchanges related to schoolwork, they often turned to unrelated topics, including Student C's personal and romantic life.
9. Two years before Student B graduated from the School, the School principal had told Arnesto not to discuss non-School related matters with students and to be mindful of his relationship with Student B in particular.
10. Two months before Student B graduated, the School principal issued Arnesto a written warning after he was found having a private conversation with Student D, who was in Grade 8. Arnesto was reminded that the written warning followed multiple previous conversations about maintaining clear professional boundaries.
11. The School did not renew Arnesto's contract for the 2020/2021 School year.
12. On March 29, 2022, Arnesto entered into a consent resolution agreement with the Commissioner in which Arnesto admitted that his conduct described in paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 above constitutes professional misconduct and conduct unbecoming and is contrary to Standard #1 of the *Standards for the Education, Competence and Professional Conduct of Educators in British Columbia*, Fourth Edition, January 2012.
13. Arnesto agreed to the cancellation of his certificate of qualification under sections 53 and 64(b) of the *Teachers Act*. The cancellation will take effect on March 30, 2022.
14. Arnesto further agreed that for a period of ten years from March 29, 2022, he will not apply for and understands the Director will be required not to issue to him, a certificate of qualification, an independent school teaching certificate or any other authorization to teach in the kindergarten to grade 12 education system under section 64(g) of the *Teachers Act* or any successor legislation.
15. In determining that cancellation and a ten-year ban on reapplication are appropriate consequences, the Commissioner considered the following factors:
  - a. Arnesto failed to maintain appropriate teacher-student boundaries with a number of students.
  - b. Arnesto's inappropriate conduct occurred on a variety of occasions, over a number of years.

- c. Arnesto had been cautioned about maintaining appropriate professional boundaries with students.