



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

AND

IN THE MATTER CONCERNING

JEFFREY STEPHEN BOX

CONSENT RESOLUTION SUMMARY

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

1. Box holds a valid Professional Certificate of Qualification. It was issued by the Director of Certification (the “Director”) under the *Teachers Act* on October 2, 2014 and is valid from October 2, 2014.
2. At all material times, the Box was employed as a high school teacher by School District No. 36 (Surrey) (the “District”).
3. On March 12, 2020, the District made a report to the Commissioner regarding Box, under section 16 of the *School Act*.
4. In the 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 school years, Box engaged in personal discussions with at least four students which were in the nature of counselling although Box was not the students’ counsellor. In June of 2019 and in the fall of 2019, Box was told by School administrators not to take on a counselling role with students. Despite this direction, Box engaged in discussions of a counselling nature with students and on two occasions he hugged students who were upset.
5. On August 21, 2020, the District issued Box a letter of discipline and suspended him without pay for five days. Box served his suspension from September 14-18, 2020.
6. On March 1, 2022, Box entered into a consent resolution agreement with the Commissioner in which Box admitted that his conduct described in paragraph 4 above constitutes professional misconduct 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.

7. Box agreed to a three-day suspension of his certificate of qualification under sections 53 and 64(b) of the *Teachers Act*. Box also agreed to complete the course, *Reinforcing Respectful Professional Boundaries*, through the Justice Institute of B.C. by March 31, 2023.
8. In determining that a three-day suspension and course requirement are appropriate consequences, the Commissioner considered the following factors:
 - a. Box's conduct showed a lack of understanding of appropriate professional boundaries by engaging with students in a "counsellor type" role; and
 - b. Box had been advised on more than one occasion not to take on a "counsellor type" role.