



BRITISH COLUMBIA
COMMISSIONER FOR
TEACHER REGULATION

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

AND

IN THE MATTER CONCERNING

ERIK CHRISTIAN OUN

██████████

CONSENT RESOLUTION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN:

THE COMMISSIONER, APPOINTED UNDER THE *TEACHERS ACT*
(the “Commissioner”)

AND:

ERIK CHRISTIAN OUN
(“Oun”)

BACKGROUND and FACTS

1. Oun holds a valid Professional Certificate of Qualification, No. ██████████. It was issued by the B.C. College of Teachers on October 19, 1999 under the *Teaching Profession Act*, is valid from September 1, 1999, and was continued under the *Teachers Act* as of January 9, 2012.
2. At all material times, Oun was employed as an elementary school teacher by School District No. 43 (Coquitlam) (the “District”) at a school in the District (the “School”).
3. On February 20, 2020, the District made a report to the Commissioner regarding Oun, under section 16 of the *School Act*.
4. During the 2018-2019 school year and in the summer following, Oun failed to observe appropriate professional boundaries with Student A:
 - a. Student A was a grade five student in the 2018-2019 school year. Oun taught

Student A one subject.

- b. During the school year, Oun often hugged Student A.
- c. On July 2, 2019, Oun texted Student A's mother, to let her know that he was chatting on Instagram with Student A. In this text, he wrote that "[Student A] has to be safe and so do I. There have to be some boundaries etc" [sic] and that he had "a very few select former students" that he chatted with, but only with the knowledge of their parents, as "in this day and age we all have to be careful".
- d. During the summer of 2019, Oun exchanged messages on Instagram with Student A, in which:
 - i. Oun called Student A "sweetheart", "sweetie", "sweets"; and "goof" and sent emojis of red and purple hearts, along with smiley faces. Oun texted Student A writing "you're just so cool!"
 - ii. Oun sent Student A a photo of himself frowning, with the caption "good night".
 - iii. On those occasions when Student A did not respond quickly to his messages, Oun sent messages in which he wrote "DON'T BE SNOBBY ANSWER ME" and "[Student A] doesn't like talking to me anymore. Sniff". He also called Student A "Snobby McSnobbertson" and sent Student A a graphic of a begging dog, a picture of an adult male rubbing his eyes and apparently crying, and a short video clip of a crying baby.
 - iv. On one occasion, Oun sent Student A the following messages over one day, to which Student A did not respond: "Aha. Caught you!", "Hey are you still allowed to chat? You're not answering!", and "If I' bugging you too much, I'm sorry."
 - v. Oun sent Student A a message that his family was away and asked what Student A was doing.
- e. Oun's messages to Student A became persistent and unwelcome. Student A's mother asked Oun to stop texting Student A. On July 20, 2019, Oun texted Student A's mother, writing that he was "truly sorry" if he caused any problems and that "I clearly have made a poor judgement". He wrote that he would stop texting Student A "so much", although Student A was always welcome to text or visit.
- f. Oun sent further texts to Student A after July 20, 2019, after Student A sent a text wishing Oun a happy birthday.

5. During the summer following the 2018-2019 school year, Oun failed to observe appropriate professional boundaries with Student B, a grade five student in the 2018-2019 school year, when he exchanged many messages on Instagram with Student B, in which:
- a. Oun sent a several texts asking Student B to get permission from Student B's mother to text with him. When Student B texted Oun that Student B had permission, Oun responded by texting "Yaaay!" He then sent Student B the same photo of himself that he sent to Student A, with the caption "I'm very happy". Later, he texted Student B writing that he had emailed Student B's mother to "check in" and that "it looks good if I say we talked too" and that it "Makes me happy" to talk with Student B.
 - b. Oun called Student B "sweetheart", "sweetie", "sweets", and "goofball" and sent emojis of red and purple hearts, along with smiley faces.
 - a. Oun texted that Student B's pics were "awesome" and wrote "I love how you pose for pics". Oun commented in response to another photograph sent by Student B that "in the pic you look adorable".
 - b. Oun texted in response to a spelling mistake by Student B, that Student B was "still cute". He texted Student B "Yer cool!".
 - c. Oun watched videos that Student B posted online and sent a text in which he wrote "Byw just watching your vids again! I love them!! You're fun to watch!" [sic].
 - d. Oun texted that he missed Student B, and another occasion wrote "Miss you lots!".
 - e. On one occasion Oun texted Student B to say thank you for the card Student B gave him, and then wrote that it made him cry.
 - f. Oun texted Student B about a show which is rated PG-14, asking if Student B had watched it, and when Student B said they had not, Oun, texted "You're just not cool like me ...".
 - g. When Student B did not respond to Oun's messages, Oun also called Student B "Snobby McSnobbertson" and sent Student B the same video clip of a baby crying and a dog begging that he sent to Student A.
 - h. Oun also texted Student B, writing "Hey are you ever going to respond stranger? Too cool for me now?".

6. During the 2018-2019 school year, Oun disclosed sensitive personal and confidential information to Student C about another student, who was not in his class.
7. During the 2018-2019 school year, Oun hugged several students, often multiple times.
8. On February 18, 2020, the District disciplined Oun by imposing a 25 day suspension without pay, from February 18 to April 6, 2020, inclusive.
9. On January 9, 2021, Oun resigned from his employment with the District.
10. On March 18, 2021, the Commissioner considered this matter and determined to propose a consent resolution agreement to Oun, in accordance with section 53(1)(a) of the *Teachers Act*.

CONSEQUENCES

11. This Agreement is made under section 53 of the *Teachers Act*.
12. Oun 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”).
13. Oun admits that the facts set out in paragraphs 1 to 8 of this Agreement are true.
14. Oun admits that the conduct described in paragraphs 4, 5, 6 and 7 of this Agreement constitutes professional misconduct and is contrary to Standard #1 of the *Professional Standards for BC Educators*, June 2019.
15. Oun agrees to a six month suspension of his certificate of qualification under sections 53 and 64(b) of the *Teachers Act*, from May 17, 2021 to June 30, 2021 and September 1, 2021 to January 16, 2022, inclusive.
16. Oun also agrees under section 64(f) and (h) that by March 30, 2022 (the “Condition Date”):
 - a. He will successfully complete the course *Reinforcing Respectful Professional Boundaries* through the Justice Institute (the “Course”) and provide satisfactory proof of completion to the Commissioner by the Condition Date.
 - b. If Oun does not successfully complete the Course by the Condition Date, he will immediately advise the Commissioner in writing of the reason(s) he has not successfully completed it and set out the date by which he proposes to do so, at which time the Commissioner may extend the deadline to a later date (the “Extended Date”).


- c. If Oun 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 Oun’s certificate of qualification under section 64(f) of the *Teachers Act*, until such time as he successfully completes the Course.
- 17. In determining that a six month suspension and a course are appropriate consequences, the Commissioner considered that Oun showed a lack of understanding of appropriate professional boundaries when he;
 - a. shared personal, sensitive, and confidential information about a student with another student; and
 - b. engaged in inappropriate contact through social media with young students.
- 18. Oun 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

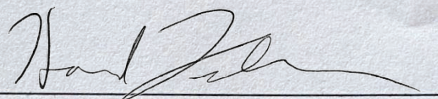
- 19. The Director of Certification will record the terms of this Agreement on the Ministry of Education’s online registry under section 79(d) of the *Teachers Act*.
- 20. Oun acknowledges that this Agreement will be published in accordance with section 54 of the *Teachers Act*, which includes posting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

24. Oun acknowledges that he has voluntarily entered into this Agreement with the benefit of independent legal advice, and that he fully understands the terms and conditions set out in this Agreement.

Signed in Vancouver, B.C.
this 23rd day of April, 2021.


Erik Christian Oun

Signed in Vancouver, B.C.
this 27 day of April, 2021.


Howard L. Kushner, Commissioner