

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

AND

IN THE MATTER CONCERNING MARK LOUIS PIEROTTI

CONSENT RESOLUTION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN:

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

AND:

MARK LOUIS PIEROTTI
("Pierotti")

BACKGROUND and FACTS

- 1. Pierotti held a valid Independent School Teaching Certificate No. Lissued by the Director of Certification (the "Director") under the *Teachers Act* on December 3, 2021, and valid from that date to June 30, 2026. On September 20, 2022, Pierotti relinquished his certificate of qualification.
- 2. At all material times, Pierotti was employed as the head of school by an independent school authority in British Columbia (the "School").
- 3. On September 12, 2022, the School made a report to the Commissioner regarding Pierotti, under section 7 of the *Independent Schools Act*.
- 4. In late August 2022, the following events occurred:
 - a. Pierotti used Grindr to contact the account of a young male (the "Youth"), who listed his age as 21. The Youth was not a real person but an adult man (the "Person")

- posing as the Youth in order to "catch" sexual predators.
- b. Pierotti started this communication with the Youth by sending the message "Hello there sexy" and invited the Youth to come over for a drink. The Youth replied that he was 15. Pierotti asked if the Youth were "for real".
- c. Pierotti and the Youth continued to exchange messages, in which Pierotti wrote (as written, except for the word in square brackets):
 - i. "I think u r 21 and just [f_g] w me";
 - ii. "I can't connect w a 15 year old. 21. Yes. That's who I hit u up";
 - iii. "So. You 21.

 I just don't wanna go to prison.

 So is it 21

 I won't serve alcohol to anyone under 20

 Wanna connect and chat then?"
- d. The next day, Pierotti exchanged more messages with the Youth, and made plans to meet up. In these messages, Pierotti wrote (as written):
 - i. "You like to make out";
 - ii. "I've been crazy horned up since the guy cancelled last night so don't want this to be uncomfortable. Might be so maybe it's not good";
 - iii. "So the age of consent is 16 in bc. Just need to know you are 16 or older", to which the Youth replied he would be "16 in like 4 months";
 - iv. "You know. Better not. You are too young and it's not legal. So when ur of age let me know. I can come say hi and we can meet just so you know I'm not a jerk";
 - v. "I'm guessing u have hooked up w older guys before"; and
 - vi. "I'm on my way we can talk and go from there".
- e. Minutes after sending this message, the Person approached Pierotti at the prearranged meeting place. Pierotti was sitting in his car and drove away as the Person came up to the window on the driver's side, while recording the car and Pierotti with his phone.

- f. The Person posted on a Facebook site both the messages and the video recording of approaching Pierotti in his car.
- 5. On August 27, 2022, the School terminated the employment of Pierotti.
- On October 6, 2022, the Commissioner considered this matter and determined to propose a
 consent resolution agreement to Pierotti, in accordance with section 53(1)(a) of the
 Teachers Act.

CONSEQUENCES

- 7. This Agreement is made under section 53 and section 43 of the *Teachers Act*.
- 8. Pierotti 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").
- 9. Pierotti admits that the facts set out in paragraphs 1 to 5 of this Agreement are true.
- 10. Pierotti admits that the conduct described in paragraph 4 of this Agreement constitutes conduct unbecoming and is contrary to Standard #2 of the *Professional Standards for BC Educators*, June 2019.
- 11. Pierotti agrees that for a period of 15 years, he will not apply for, and understands the Director of Certification (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.
- 12. In determining that a ban on issuance of a certificate of qualification or other authorization is an appropriate consequence, the Commissioner considered the following factors:
 - a. After being told that the Youth was 15 years old, Pierotti continued to send messages, some with sexual content, and also arranged to meet the Youth. Pierotti was aware of the age of consent and that sexual activity with a 15 year old would be criminal in nature.
 - b. Pierotti's conduct became known to the public through the Facebook posting.
 - c. Piertotti's conduct undermines the public's confidence in the education system.
- 13. Pierotti 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

- 14. The Director will record the terms of this Agreement on the Ministry of Education's online registry under section 79(d) of the *Teachers Act*.
- 15. Pierotti 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.
- 16. If Pierotti applies for a certificate of qualification, an independent school teaching certificate, or other authorization to teach in the kindergarten to grade twelve education system after expiry of the period set out in paragraph 11, it is agreed, without limiting any other power of the Director to determine Pierotti's fitness and suitability to be granted a certificate of qualification, independent school teaching certificate or letter of permission, that the Director may consider:
 - a. the facts set out and admitted in this Agreement;
 - b. any document or other evidence gathered or prepared by the Branch in any investigation of this matter; and
 - c. any evidence of breach by Pierotti of one or more terms of this Agreement.
- 17. Pierotti acknowledges that he has voluntarily entered into this Agreement after being advised of his right to obtain independent legal advice, and that he fully understands the terms and conditions set out in this Agreement.

Signed in San Jun PR, B.C. this 27 day of July, 2023	Mark Louis Pierotti
Signed in Coquitlam, B.C.	qua S
this 27th day of July , 2023.	Ana R. Mohammed, Commissioner