

BRITISH COLUMBIA COMMISSIONER FOR TEACHER REGULATION

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

AND

IN THE MATTER CONCERNING

HUSSAN ALI RIASAT

CONSENT RESOLUTION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN:

THE COMMISSIONER, APPOINTED UNDER THE TEACHERS ACT

(the "Commissioner")

AND:

HUSSAN ALI RIASAT

("Riasat")

BACKGROUND and FACTS

- 1. Riasat holds a valid Professional Certificate of Qualification, No. **Director**, issued by the Director of Certification (the "Director") under the *Teachers Act* on February 3, 2017, and valid from that day.
- 2. At all material times, Riasat was employed as a high school teacher, by School District No. 36 (Surrey) (the "District") at a school in the District (the "School").

: <u>Matter 1</u>

- 3. On October 13, 2023, the District made a report to the Commissioner regarding Riasat, under section 16 of the *School Act*. This has been designated Matter 1.
- 4. The following events occurred when Riasat was teaching at the School:
 - a. In May 2021, Riasat told two students that an unnamed student had engaged in self-

harm. Riasat went on to say that the student had asked for Riasat but that the School counsellor had left him out. Riasat said that he was upset that he was not involved.

- b. In May 2021, a group of Grade 10 students were having conflict within a friend group. The issues pertained primarily to the group's relationship with one particular student, Student A. Two of the students involved, Student B and Student C, wanted Riasat, their English teacher, to assist the friends in resolving the issues between them. Riasat met with the students individually and in groups in an attempt to resolve the conflict.
- c. When attempting to mediate issues between this friend group in May and June 2021, Riasat failed to maintain appropriate boundaries between himself and the students, which included sharing details about his personal life with them, writing them overly familiar and inappropriate messages and leaving an inappropriate voice message for Student B and Student C. Specifically, on May 21, 2021, Riasat left a voice message for Student B and Student C which included the following:
 - "Now both of those things you are doing right there, accusing me of picking favourites and then telling me I am not validating your feelings is a guilt trip. That's basically what is happening right now. And the only reason why you are saying that is because I am not actively participating in hating on [Student A] or her behaviour because I am being impartial because I am not picking sides".
 - "I have a dynamic with [Student A] and if she has ever offended me, which she has, I have told her straight up and she's corrected her behaviour and we're fine".
 - "I don't need to talk to you guys about this anymore. I shouldn't have even been approached in the first place and I shouldn't be doing this right now. But I would say in the future don't come to me with anything...talk to your counsellor...talk to other people...I told you my mental state and the things that I deal with but that was completely disregarded and maybe it's fine and maybe it should be because I am a teacher and you know what I deal with should be different anyways and my feelings don't need to be as...you know as well considered as other people's because I'm an adult".
- d. Also in May 2021, Riasat wrote a MS Teams message to Student B in which he said that Student B's behaviour had been "insanely childish and rude" and that he would only "help people who want to be helped", that he was "at my limit with my involvement trying to make sure you can all get along", and that "I have my own problems". He also accused Student B and Student C of engaging in "attention-

seeking behaviour and guilt-tripping". Riasat sent this message to Student B in frustration and anger.

- e. On May 28, 2021, Riasat contacted Student D through MS Teams to ask if Student D knew anything about the problems in the friend group, telling Student D that he thought that Student B and Student C were bullying Student A, and asking Student D to intervene. Student D reported feeling pressured to share information with Riasat. In this course of this discussion, Riasat told Student D that Student C had a "bitchy attitude" and that Student B and Student C were manipulative.
- f. At the end of June 2021, Riasat provided the vice principal with a report about his efforts in resolving the issues between these students. This report was highly critical of the actions of a number of the students, including Student B and Student C, and concluded that these students were bullying Student A.
- g. Also in June 2021, Riasat told at least one other teacher in the School that he had concluded that certain students in the friend group were bullies.
- h. The vice principal shared Riasat's report with the school principal who in turn met with Student A's family. As the summer break was about to start, a decision was made by school administrators that they would wait to address the issues identified by Riasat until the start of the new school year. This information was shared with Riasat.
- i. On September 21, 2021, Riasat wrote the vice principal expressing his "extreme disappointment" in how the "bullying situation" was being handled. He wrote: "You have told me nearly every week since the last week of August that you have been too busy to follow-up with the rest of the [students] and I have repeatedly been asked to check back later". He then wrote: "I gave a report of what transpired with the [students], my experience with it, and have been advocating for [Student A] since this began because I am her trusted teacher. However, I feel disrespected..."
- j. Contrary to Riasat's email, by the third week of September, the vice-principal and principal had met with three of the students involved in the friend group about the discord amongst the students.
- k. On September 23, 2021, Riasat, frustrated by what he felt was inaction on the part of School administrators, approached Student E, who was the president of a School club of which Student B was a member. Riasat told Student E that Student B, who was also on the club's executive, was a bully and that Student E "might want to look into that", implying that Student B should not be part of the club. Riasat also told Student E that Student E could not tell anyone that he was the source of this information. As a result of this conversation, Student B was removed from the club.

- Around the same time, Riasat heard that a student in Grade 11, Student F, had been gossiping and saying negative things about him and that Student F did not want to be in a class with Student A. His response was to send Student F a retaliatory message on September 23, 2021, which read as follows: "Please go to counseling and get yourself transferred out of my class at your earliest convenience". Student F reported feeling very confused as Student F had never been part of the conflict with the friend group involving Students A, B, C or D.
- m. Riasat was the teacher sponsor for the School's film club. Riasat was also the administrator of an Instagram account linked with the School's film club. At one point, he blocked Student B, Student C, Student D, Student F and another student from access to this Instagram account.
- 5. On October 5, 2023, the District issued Riasat a letter of discipline and suspended him for five days without pay. Riasat served the suspension from October 31, 2023, to November 3, 2023, inclusive. The District also required Riasat to complete a boundaries course by September 1, 2024. Riasat has not completed a boundaries course to date.

: Matter 2

- 6. On June 25, 2024, the District made a second report to the Commissioner regarding Riasat, under section 16 of the *School Act*. This has been designated Matter 2.
- 7. The following events occurred:
 - a. On May 21, 2024, Riasat walked past some students in the hallway at the School. A student said something about someone being bald. Riasat turned around and said: "what the fuck did you just say to me?". A Grade 9 student said: "who the fuck are you talking to?". Riasat responded: "you". Riasat then said: "Fuck you, bitch" and gave the students the middle finger as he walked away.
 - b. On June 14, 2024, when he was on medical leave, Riasat acted as an invigilator for a District student writing a final Surrey Academy of Integrated Learning ("SAIL") Anatomy and Physiology 12 exam. The student in question did not attend the School at which Riasat taught and wrote the exam which Riasat was invigilating at a local Starbucks, at approximately 5:45 pm.
 - c. When invigilating the exam, Riasat had logged in using a personal device and not a District-issued device. Under District policy, SAIL exams must be completed on District-issued devices and must also be written and invigilated at a school site.
- 8. On June 17, 2024, Riasat resigned from the District, effective June 19, 2024.

- 9. The District had previously issued Riasat a letter of direction on July 5, 2023, following an incident where he flicked the fabric portion of a lanyard at two students, striking one of them in the chin or face area. In this letter, Riasat was reminded to adhere to the *Professional Standards for BC Educators*, with particular attention to his responsibilities related to the physical and emotional safety of students, and his duty to maintain the integrity, credibility and reputation of the profession. Riasat was also reminded to refrain from physical contact with students, particularly when correcting their behaviour.
- 10. On December 14, 2023, the Commissioner ordered an investigation of Matter 1 under section 47(1) of the *Teachers Act*.
- 11. On June 26, 2024, the Commissioner ordered an investigation of Matter 2 under section 47(1) of the *Teachers Act*.
- 12. On June 26, 2024, the Commissioner combined Matter 1 and Matter 2.
- 13. On October 18, 2024, the Commissioner considered this matter and determined to propose a consent resolution agreement to Riasat, in accordance with section 53(1)(a) of the *Teachers Act*.

CONSEQUENCES

- 14. This Agreement is made under section 53 of the Teachers Act.
- 15. Riasat 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").
- 16. Riasat admits that the facts set out in paragraphs 1 to 9 of this Agreement are true.
- 17. Riasat admits that the conduct described in paragraphs 4 and 7 of this Agreement constitutes professional misconduct and is contrary to Standard #1 and #2 of the *Professional Standards for BC Educators*, June 2019.
- 18. Riasat agrees to a two-day suspension of his certificate of qualification under sections 53 and 64(b) of the *Teachers Act*, from June 25, 2025 to June 26, 2025, inclusive.
- 19. Riasat further agrees under section 64(f) and (h) of the *Teachers Act* that by **September 5, 2025** (the "Condition Date"):
 - a. He will successfully complete the course *Reinforcing Respectful Professional Boundaries* through the Justice Institute of British Columbia (the "Course") and provide satisfactory proof of completion to the Commissioner by the Condition Date.

- b. If Riasat 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 Condition Date to a later date (the "Extended Date").
- c. If Riasat 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 Riasat's certificate of qualification under section 64(f) of the *Teachers Act*, until such time as he successfully completes the Course.
- 20. In determining that a two-day suspension and course requirement are appropriate consequences, the Commissioner considered the following factors:
 - a. Riasat's conduct in Matters 1 and 2 showed a repeated lack of understanding of appropriate professional boundaries.
 - b. Riasat accepted responsibility and was apologetic for his actions in Matter 1.
 - c. With respect to both Matter 1 and Matter 2, Riasat repeatedly failed to role model appropriate behaviour and did not treat students with acceptance, dignity and respect.
 - d. Working when he had called in sick, and administering an exam in breach of District policy undermines confidence of the public in the profession and in the education system.
- 21. Riasat 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

- 22. The Director will record the terms of this Agreement on the online registry of the Ministry of Education and Child Care, under section 79(d) of the *Teachers Act*.
- 23. Riasat 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: <u>https://teacherregulation.gov.bc.ca</u>
- 24. Notification of this Agreement will be made in accordance with section 55 of the *Teachers Act*.
- 25. A breach by Riasat of any term in this Agreement may constitute professional misconduct which may be the subject of separate discipline proceedings.

- Riasat acknowledges and understands that if the Commissioner has reason to believe that 26. he has breached any term of this Agreement:
 - the Commissioner may initiate an investigation under section 47(1)(b) of the a. Teachers Act into his conduct; and
 - the conduct and matters described in the "Background and Facts" to this Agreement b. are admissible in that inquiry as proof that Riasat has admitted to the conduct and matters set out in this Agreement.
- Riasat acknowledges that he has voluntarily entered into this Agreement after being 27. 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 \underline{SURREY} , B.C. this $\underline{|6^n}$ day of \underline{JUNE} , 2025.

Hussan Ali Riasat

Signed in	New Westminster	_, B.C.
this <u>17th</u> d	ay of June	, 2025.

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Donnaree Nygard, Acting Commissioner