

BRITISH COLUMBIA COMMISSIONER FOR TEACHER REGULATION

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

AND

IN THE MATTER CONCERNING

CURTIS ALEXANDRO VIZZA

CONSENT RESOLUTION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN:

THE COMMISSIONER, APPOINTED UNDER THE TEACHERS ACT

(the "Commissioner")

AND:

CURTIS ALEXANDRO VIZZA ("Vizza")

BACKGROUND and FACTS

- 1. Vizza holds a valid Professional Certificate of Qualification, No. issued by the Director of Certification (the "Director") under the *Teachers Act* on January 18, 2017, and valid from January 18, 2017.
- 2. At all material times, Vizza was employed as a secondary school teacher by School District No. 68 (Nanaimo) (the "District") at a District school (the "School").
- 3. On July 28, 2021, the District made a report to the Commissioner regarding Vizza, under section 16 of the *School Act*.
- 4. The following events occurred:
 - a. There was a noted pattern of female students hanging out in Vizza's classroom,

around Vizza's desk and around Vizza generally. Some of these students would confide in Vizza about personal matters, including health, fitness, anxiety, sex, pregnancy scares, drugs, relationships, and problems in general. Vizza provided these students with advice, although he was not a counsellor. Many of the female students would come to Vizza's classroom in an emotional state, some in tears. Some of these students came to view Vizza as a friend.

- b. Student A graduated from the School in June 2019. Student A had been a student in Vizza's PE class in October 2018. Student A viewed Vizza as a stable person in whom Student A could confide. One evening in December 2020, Student A and Vizza connected over Snapchat and began exchanging messages which grew increasingly sexualized and which included Vizza sending sexually explicit photos of himself to Student A. After that evening, Vizza and Student A exchanged further messages which included vulgar and sexualized messages sent by Vizza as well as a photograph of his backside and shirtless torso.
- c. On June 1, 2021, the District wrote to Vizza, advising him that he was being investigated for inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature. In that letter, Vizza was told not to discuss the matter with any student or staff member other than his union representative. On June 2, 2021, Vizza wrote Student A apologizing for his conduct.
- 5. On November 19, 2021, the District terminated Vizza's employment, effective November 18, 2021.
- 6. On December 1, 2021, the Commissioner ordered an investigation under section 47(1) of the *Teachers Act*.
- 7. On August 10, 2022, the Commissioner considered this matter and determined to propose a consent resolution agreement to Vizza, in accordance with section 53(1)(a) of the *Teachers Act*.

CONSEQUENCES

- 8. This Agreement is made under section 53 of the *Teachers Act*.
- 9. Vizza 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").
- 10. Vizza admits that the facts set out in paragraphs 1 to 5 of this Agreement are true.

- 11. Vizza admits that the conduct described in paragraph 4 of this Agreement constitutes professional misconduct and is contrary to Standards #1 and of the *Professional Standards for BC Educators*, June 2019.
- 12. Vizza agrees to cancellation of his certificate of qualification under sections 53 and 64(e) of the *Teachers Act*, which will occur on the first business day following the Effective Date.
- 13. Vizza further agrees that for a period of five years from the Effective Date, 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.
- 14. In determining that cancellation and a five-year ban on reapplication are appropriate consequences, the Commissioner considered the following factors:
 - a. Vizza's conduct showed a lack of understanding of appropriate professional boundaries.
 - b. Vizza failed to maintain appropriate professional boundaries in several different ways.
 - c. Vizza engaged in inappropriate communication of a sexual nature with a former student.
- 15. Vizza 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

- 16. Vizza 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>.
- 17. Notification of this Agreement will be made in accordance with section 55 of the *Teachers Act*.
- 18. If Vizza 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 13, it is agreed, without limiting any

other power of the Director to determine Vizza'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 Vizza of one or more terms of this Agreement.
- 19. Vizza 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 <u>Navaino</u>, B.C. this <u>31</u> day of <u>October</u>, 2023.

Curtis Alexandro & Esta

Signed inCoquitlam, B.C.this31st day ofOctober, 2023.

Ana R. Mohammed, Commissioner