



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

AND

IN THE MATTER CONCERNING

LAWRENCE PAUL RYAN



CONSENT RESOLUTION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN:

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

AND:

LAWRENCE PAUL RYAN
(“Ryan”)

BACKGROUND and FACTS

1. Ryan holds a valid Professional Certificate of Qualification, No. [REDACTED]. It was issued by the B.C. College of Teachers under the *Teaching Profession Act* on December 28, 1995, is valid from September 1, 1995, and was continued under the *Teachers Act* as of January 9, 2012.
2. At all material times, Ryan was employed as a secondary school teacher by School District No. 41 (Burnaby) (the “District”) at a District school (the “School”).
3. On March 4, 2020, the District made a report to the Commissioner regarding Ryan, under section 16 of the *School Act*.
4. The following events occurred on February 13, 2020 when Ryan was teaching a PE class:
 - a. Student A, who was in Grade 12, attempted to toss a dumbbell to a classmate but it fell to the floor instead.



- b. Ryan spoke to Student A in a loud voice in front of students from four different PE classes, and was perceived by Student A to be angry. Ryan said: “what is stupider, throwing a dumbbell across the gym or trying to catch it?”
 - c. When Student A attempted to explain that dropping the dumbbell had been an accident, Ryan picked up the dumbbell and threw it aggressively, underhand, towards Student A, saying loudly “do you think this is an accident?” Ryan threw the dumbbell from a distance of approximately 3 feet and it would have struck Student A in the face had Student A not caught it.
5. On March 3, 2020, the District issued Ryan a letter of discipline. Ryan was required to apologize to Student A and their parents, and also to the students in the four classes that were present in the gym on February 13, 2020. The District also required Ryan to engage in counselling.
 6. On April 24, 2020, the Commissioner considered this matter and determined to propose a consent resolution agreement to Ryan, in accordance with section 53(1)(a) of the *Teachers Act*.

CONSEQUENCES

7. This Agreement is made under section 53 of the *Teachers Act*.
8. Ryan 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. Ryan admits that the facts set out in paragraphs 1 to 5 of this Agreement are true.
10. Ryan admits that the conduct described in paragraph 4 of this Agreement 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.
11. Ryan agrees to a one-day suspension of his certificate of qualification under sections 53 and 64(b) of the *Teachers Act*. Ryan will serve the suspension on February 12, 2021.
12. In determining that a one-day suspension is an appropriate consequence, the Commissioner considered the following factor:
 - a. Ryan failed to model appropriate behavior expected of an educator.
13. Ryan 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 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*.
15. Ryan 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. Notification of this Agreement will be made in accordance with section 55 of the *Teachers Act*.
17. A breach by Ryan of any term in this Agreement may constitute professional misconduct which may be the subject of separate discipline proceedings.
18. Ryan 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 Ryan has admitted to the conduct and matters set out in this Agreement.
19. Ryan 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 BURNABY, B.C.
this 11th day of JANUARY, 2021.


Lawrence Paul Ryan

Signed in Vancouver, B.C.
this 12 day of January, 2021.


Howard L. Kushner, Commissioner

