

BEFORE THE KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of
the License of
Colton Grove

KSDE No. 23-PPC-36

FINAL ORDER

NOW, on this 12th day of December 2023, the above-captioned matter comes for consideration by the Kansas State Board of Education (Board). Appearing for the Board are Chairwoman, Melanie Haas, and members, Betty Arnold, Dennis Hershberger, Michelle Dombrosky, Cathy Hopkins, Deena Horst, Jim McNiece, Ann Mah, Jim Porter and Danny Zeck.

WHEREUPON the Professional Practices Commission (Commission) considered the matter on November 3, 2023. Colton Grove appeared not. The Kansas State Department of Education appeared through its attorney, R. Scott Gordon. After reviewing the evidence, the Commission voted **6 – 0**, to recommend Colton Grove’s voluntary surrender of his professional teaching license should be accepted and his professional teaching license be revoked.

WHEREUPON the Board reviewed the Commission’s Initial Order. The Board adopted the Commission’s findings of fact and conclusions of law by a vote of **10 – 0**.

All findings set forth in the Commission’s Initial Order attached hereto are incorporated by reference and made a part of this Final Order as though fully set forth at length herein.

IT IS THEREFORE CONCLUDED by the Kansas State Board of Education that Colton Grove’s professional teaching license is revoked.

This Final Order is made and entered this 12th day of December 2023.

Kansas State Board of Education



BY: Jim Porter, Vice Chairman
Signed December 13, 2023

NOTICE TO LICENSEE/APPLICANT

This is a Final Order and is effective upon service.

To request reconsideration of this order, you must file a Petition for Reconsideration with the Secretary to the State Board of Education, at the address below, within 15 days after service of this Final Order. The Petition must state the specific grounds upon which relief is requested.

To request a stay of effectiveness of this order, you must file a Petition for Stay with the Secretary to the State Board of Education at the address below. A petition can be filed until the time which a petition for judicial review would no longer be timely.

To seek judicial review of a Final Order, you must file a petition in the District Court as authorized by K.S.A. 77-601, *et seq.* within 30 days following the service of the Final Order. Filing a Petition for Reconsideration is not a prerequisite for seeking judicial review. A copy of any Petition for Judicial Review must be served upon the Secretary to the State Board of Education at the address below.

Deborah Bremer
Secretary, Kansas State Board of Education
Landon State Office Building
900 SW Jackson Ave. Suite 600N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

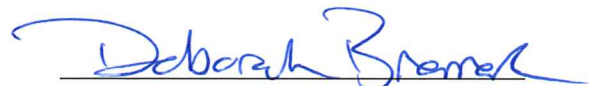
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 14th day of December 2023, a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing was mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, to:

Colton Grove
2609 M. St.
Belleville, Kansas 66935

And via interoffice mail to:

R. Scott Gordon
Kansas State Department of Education
900 SW Jackson Street, Ste. 102
Topeka, Kansas 66612



Deborah Bremer, Secretary
Kansas State Board of Education

**BEFORE THE KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMISSION**

In the Matter of
the License of
Colton Grove

Case No: 23-PPC-36

INITIAL ORDER

The above-captioned case comes on for hearing before the Professional Practices Commissioner (“Commission”) of the Kansas State Board of Education (State Board) upon the Complaint filed by the Kansas State Department of Education seeking revocation of Colton Grove’s (Licensee) professional license.

The hearing on this matter was held on November 3, 2023. Appearing for the Commission were chairperson, Jennifer Holt, and members, Aaron Edwards, Leigh Ann Rogers, Ricardo Sanchez, Carey Spaulding, Christy Ziegler. The KSDE appeared by and through General Counsel, R. Scott Gordon. Licensee did not appear.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Licensee currently holds a Kansas professional teaching license.
2. Between April 4, 2022 and July 13, 2022, Licensee engaged in a series of inappropriate communications with a 15 year old student. Much of the communication was sexual in nature.
3. On July 22, 2023, Licensee was sentenced after having been previously found guilty of Stalking, in violation of K.S.A. 21-5427(a)(1). The victim of his stalking was his former student. As a condition of Licensee’s probation and as was agreed upon in his plea agreement, Licensee was ordered to surrender his teaching license.
4. On October 18, 2023, Licensee voluntarily surrendered his license by way of a signed, notarized document (Attached Exhibit A).
5. During the November 3, 2023 meeting of the Professional Practices Commission, the Commission voted to accept Licensee’s surrender and recommend revocation of his license based on his criminal convictions and the underlying misconduct.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

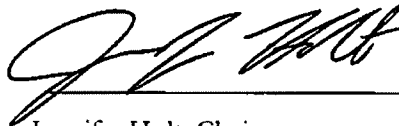
1. The Kansas State Board of Education (State Board) is responsible for the general supervision of Kansas education, including the certification and licensure of teachers. Kan. Const., Art. VI and K.S.A. 72-255.

2. The Kansas State Board of Education may revoke the license of any teacher for misconduct or other just cause. K.A.R. 91-22-1a.
3. One of the obvious goals of education is to “instill respect for the law.” Hainline v. Bond, 250 Kan. 217 (1992). An educator is a role model. Hainline at 224.
4. Teaching and school administration are professions with all the similar rights, responsibilities and privileges accorded other legally recognized professions. K.S.A. 72-2308.
5. Licensee’s conduct is inconsistent with the commonly held perceptions and expectations of a member of the teaching profession. Such conduct violates the public trust and confidence placed in members of the profession. Licensee’s conduct demonstrates a lack of fitness to perform the duties and responsibilities of a member of the teaching and school administration professions and is sufficient and just cause to revoke his license.

THEREFORE the Professional Practices Commission recommends to the State Board, by a vote of 6-0, that Licensee’s license be revoked immediately.

This Initial Order is made and entered this November, 2023.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMISSION



Jennifer Holt, Chairperson

Order signed on November 29, 2023.

NOTICE TO APPLICANT

This Order is not a Final Order and is required to be reviewed by the Kansas State Board of Education in accordance with the provisions of the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act. The State Board will review all issues. Notice of review with the specific date and time will be provided to the parties within 15 days of the review.

You may submit to the State Board for its consideration as part of its review of the Initial Order a written brief citing legal authority as to why the above recommendation should not be accepted. You must file the brief with the State Board Secretary at the address indicated below within ten calendar days after service of the Initial Order for transmittal to the State Board. You must also make any request for oral argument at that time.

Deborah Bremer
Secretary, Kansas State Board of Education
900 SW Jackson Street, Suite 600
Topeka, KS 66612

Response briefs are due within ten calendar days after service of the legal brief upon the opposing party. Any reply brief is due five calendar days after service of any response brief upon the opposing party. Any response or reply briefs must also be filed with the State Board Secretary at the address indicated above.

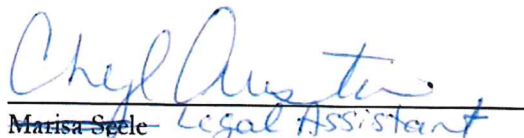
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 30th day of November, 2023, a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing was filed with the Secretary for the Kansas State Board of Education, one (1) copy was mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested; and one (1) copy was mailed by first-class prepaid postage mail, to:

Colton Grove
2609 M. St.
Belleville, Kansas 66935

And via interoffice mail to:

R. Scott Gordon
Kansas State Department of Education
900 SW Jackson Street, Suite 102
Topeka, Kansas 66612


~~Marisa Steele~~ *Legal Assistant*
Secretary, Professional Practices Commission