

BEFORE THE KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of
the License of
Lauren Charles

Case No. 21-PPC-05
OAH No. 21ED0009 ED

FINAL ORDER

NOW, on this 12th day of October, 2021, the above-captioned matter comes for consideration by the Kansas State Board of Education (Board). Appearing for the Board are Chairman, Jim Porter and members, Betty Arnold, Jean Clifford, Michelle Dombrosky, Melanie Haas, Deena Horst, Ben Jones, Jim McNiece, Ann Mah and Janet Waugh.

WHEREUPON the Professional Practices Commission (Commission) considered the matter on September 10, 2021. Lauren Charles did not appear. The Kansas State Department of Education appeared through its attorney, R. Scott Gordon. After reviewing the evidence, the Commission voted unanimously, to recommend Ms. Charles' voluntary surrender of her professional license should be accepted and her license revoked.


WHEREUPON the Board reviewed the Commission's Initial Order and after considering the presentation by R. Scott Gordon, General Counsel, who was available to answer the Board's questions and being otherwise duly advised in the premises, 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 Lauren Charles' professional license is revoked.

This Final Order is made and entered this 12th day of October 2021.

Kansas State Board of Education



BY: Jim Porter, Chairman
Signed October 22, 2021

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.

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

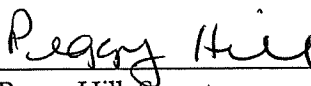
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 25th day of October 2021, a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing was mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, to:

Richard E. Dietz
Dietz and Hardman
115 South First Street
P.O. Box 326
Osborne, Kansas 67473

And via interoffice mail to:

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



Peggy Hill, Secretary
Kansas State Board of Education

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

In the Matter of
the License of
Lauren Charles

21-PPC-05

INITIAL ORDER

The above-captioned case comes on for hearing before the Professional Practices Commission (“PPC”) of the Kansas State Board of Education (“State Board”) upon the Complaint filed by the Kansas State Department of Education (“KSDE”) seeking revocation of the license of Lauren Charles. (“Licensee”).

The hearing on this matter was held on September 10, 2021. KSDE appeared by and through its attorney R. Scott Gordon. Licensee did not appear in person, but appeared by way of a written voluntary surrender.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. During the 2015-2016 school year, Licensee was licensed by the Kansas State Board of Education, and was employed as a teacher and as a girls’ athletic coach.
2. During the 2015-2016 school year, Licensee engaged in an inappropriate personal relationship with a student. Licensee continued to violate school district policies by not maintaining boundaries between herself and her students, not distancing herself from her students when advised by school administration, and be refusing to abide by parents’ directives to stay away from their daughter(s).
3. Licensee filed an Answer to the Complaint and requested a hearing. Subsequent to those filings, and with the help of her legal counsel, Licensee submitted a written voluntary surrender of her license.¹

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. A member of the teaching or school administration profession may voluntarily surrender her or his license to the PPC. The PPC shall investigate the surrender and make a recommendation to the State Board for disposition of the license.
2. Here, the Licensee acknowledged that her license will be revoked upon acceptance of her voluntary surrender and that findings consistent with those requested in the Complaint will be made by the State Board.

¹ Licensee’s Voluntary Surrender is attached.

3. Engaging in an inappropriate personal relationship with a student is sufficient and just cause to find Licensee has engaged in professional misconduct sufficient to warrant revocation of her license.

THEREFORE the PPC recommends to the State Board by a vote of 6-0 that Licensee's voluntary surrender of her license be accepted and her teaching license be retroactively revoked as a result of her misconduct.

IT IS SO ORDERED.


Jennifer Holt (Sep 25, 2021 11:20 CDT)

Jennifer Holt, Chairperson
Professional Practices Commission

NOTICE TO LICENSEE

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.

Peggy Hill
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 28th day of September, 2021, a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing was filed with the Secretary for the Kansas State Board of Education and one (1) copy was mailed by electronic mail to:

Richard Dietz
staff@dietzhardmanlaw.com

And via interoffice mail to:

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



Marisa Seele
Secretary, Professional Practices Commission

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 28th day of September, 2021, a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing was filed with the Secretary for the Professional Practices Commission and one copy was mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, to:



Marisa Seele

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

In the Matter of
the License
of Lauren Charles

21-PPC-05
21ED0009 ED

VOLUNTARY SURRENDER

I, Lauren Charles, hereby acknowledge that the Kansas State Department of Education filed a Complaint alleging that while licensed as a professional by the Kansas State Board of Education I engaged in professional misconduct.

I now voluntarily surrender my professional teaching license (No. 8115764558) to the Kansas State Board of Education (State Board) for permanent revocation. I understand the Professional Practices Commission (Commission) and the State Board will review all relevant information in this case. I waive any right to provide any evidence at a hearing I may have had in this matter. I waive any objection to or contestation of findings made by the Commission or the State Board related to this surrender.

I acknowledge and understand that notice of my license revocation will be provided to all Kansas local education agencies and to the agency responsible for issuing educator licenses/certificates in each of the other states.



Signature

Lauren Charles
(Printed or typed name)

10392 Stagecoach Ave
(Street address)

Firestone, CO 80504
(City) (Zip)

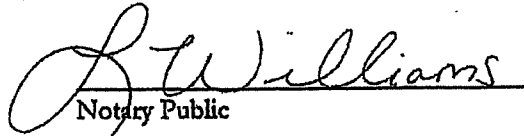
VERIFICATION

STATE OF COLORADO
COUNTY OF Mesa

ss:

BE IT REMEMBERED that on this 18 day of August, 2021,
before me, the undersigned, a notary public in and for the county and state aforesaid, came
Lauren Charles, who is personally known to me to be the same person who executed the within
instrument and such person duly acknowledged the execution of the same.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have set my hand and affixed my official seal the day and year
last above written.


Notary Public

My appointment expires:

01 - 29, 2025

