

**BEFORE THE KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

In the Matter of  
the Application of  
Jeremy Riggs

Case No. 21-PPC-02

**FINAL ORDER**

NOW, on this 10th day of August, 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 June 18, 2021<sup>1</sup>. Jeremy Riggs did not appear. The Kansas State Department of Education appeared through its attorney, R. Scott Gordon. After reviewing the evidence, the Commission voted **6 – 0**, to recommend the Board revoke Jeremy Rigg’s professional teaching license.

WHEREUPON the Board reviewed the Commission’s Initial Order and after considering the presentation by Jennifer Holt, Commission Chair, 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 Jeremy Rigg’s professional teaching license is revoked.

This Final Order is made and entered this 10th day of August 2021.

Kansas State Board of Education



BY: Jim Porter, Chairman  
Signed September 30, 2021

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<sup>1</sup> Although the Initial Order says the date of the hearing was on June 10, 2021, the actual meeting of the Professional Practices Commission was on June 18, 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 30<sup>th</sup> day of September 2021, a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing was mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, to:

Jeremy Riggs  
1708 W. Ferrel Dr.  
Olathe, Kansas 66061

And via interoffice mail to:

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

  
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Peggy Hill, Secretary  
Kansas State Board of Education

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

In the Matter of  
the Application of  
Jeremy Riggs

21-PPC-02

**INITIAL ORDER**

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

The hearing on this matter was held on June 10, 2021. Appearing for the Commission were chairperson, Jennifer Holt, and members, Aaron Edwards, Eric Filippi, Kimberly Gilman, Stan Ruff, and Caroline Spaulding. The KSDE appeared by and through its attorney, General Counsel, R. Scott Gordon. The Applicant did not appear in person, but did submit a written Answer to the Complaint.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. While employed as a high school teacher, Licensee engaged in inappropriate communication with students. (See texts from between January 16, 2017 and January 25, 2017, “This may seem weird and you can’t tell people this, but I think you are something special, we just need to get you the opportunity to prove it to everyone else. A chance to show what I already know and see in you” and “I will be honest, I miss seeing you all the time. There is a [insert students name] shaped hole in my day”. Also, from April 1, 2017 “I hate love you [insert winky kissy face]” and “Yep, [insert flexing muscle emoji] your penis is strong like bull”).
2. On April 2, 2019, Licensee was charged with one count of misdemeanor Sexual Battery. The victim was an underage student of Licensee. Pursuant to a plea agreement, Licensee’s criminal charge was amended to simple Battery to which he pled no contest. As a condition of his sentence, he was required to undergo a sex offender evaluation and follow all recommendations. Licensee was also ordered to have no contact with the victim or the Blue Valley School District.
3. Licensee received the Complaint filed by the Kansas State Department of Education, and was aware that failure to participate in his hearing would likely result in these findings by default.

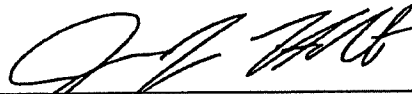
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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 State Board may deny a license for misconduct or other just cause. See 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. Applicant'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. Applicant'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 deny his application for license.
6. Although Licensee provided a written answer to the allegations, his lack of participating in the Professional Practices Commission's proceedings demonstrates a lack of desire to keep his professional license.

THEREFORE the Professional Practices Commission, by unanimous vote, recommends the Kansas State Board of Education revoke Licensee's license based on criminal misconduct and failure to participate in its proceedings.

This Initial Order is made and entered this July, 2021.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMISSION



Jennifer Holt, Chairperson

Order signed on July 13, 2021.

### 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.

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.

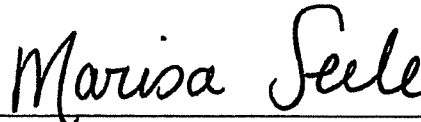
**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 15 day of July, 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 certified mail, return receipt requested, to:

Jeremy Riggs  
1708 W. Ferrel Dr.  
Olathe, Kansas 66061

And via interoffice mail to:

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



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Marisa Seele  
Secretary, Professional Practices Commission