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BEFORE THE BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL EXAMINERS
OF THE STATE OF IOWA

In the Matter of:

RYAN HODGES,

Respondent.

Case No. 22-199

22-200

Folder #822991

**SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
AND FINAL ORDER**

In accordance with the provisions of Iowa Code sections 17A.12(5) and 272.2(4) and 282 Iowa Administrative Code rule 11.4(6), and with full knowledge of the right to demand a formal hearing before the Board upon the pending complaint prior to the imposition of sanction upon his license, the Respondent expressly waives the right to a disciplinary hearing and notifies the Board of his desire to resolve the pending complaint through means of informal disposition.

The Respondent concedes the jurisdiction of the Board for all issues relevant hereto and voluntarily consents to the State's counsel presenting this agreement to the Board with the terms provided. If the Board does not accept the terms of this agreement, the disciplinary hearing will be rescheduled, and the stipulations contained herein are not binding upon the Respondent and will not be presented against him at the time of hearing without further agreement of the Respondent.

Board approval of this settlement shall constitute resolution of this matter and will be entered as a FINAL ORDER of the Board.

STIPULATIONS

1. Respondent holds a Professional Service License (Folder #822991), with endorsements for Professional School Counselor K-8 and Professional School Counselor 5-12, which expires on April 30, 2024. Respondent also holds a Coaching Authorization that expires on April 30, 2025.
2. During all material events of this case, Respondent was employed as a Counselor with the Centerville Community School District.
3. On December 21, 2022, the Board received two complaints against Respondent alleging a violation of the Code of Ethics, Case No. 22-199 and Case No. 22-200.
4. On April 21, 2023, the Board found probable cause to proceed with a hearing based on the facts set forth in the Notice of Charges and investigation file for Case No. 22-199.

5. On May 19, 2023, the Board found probable cause to proceed with a hearing based on the facts set forth in the Notice of Charges and investigation file for Case No. 22-200.

6. Under Case No. 22-199, Respondent was charged with soliciting, encouraging, or consummating a romantic or otherwise inappropriate relationship with a student, in violation of 282 Iowa Administrative Code rule 25.3(1)(e)(4).

7. Under Case No. 22-200, Respondent was charged with soliciting, encouraging, or consummating a romantic or otherwise inappropriate relationship with a student, in violation of 282 Iowa Administrative Code rule 25.3(1)(e)(4).

8. Investigation revealed that Respondent engaged in inappropriate communications with students that exceeded typical teacher-student boundaries.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

7. This Settlement Agreement and Final Order constitutes the final resolution of a contested case proceeding and shall have the force and effect of a disciplinary order entered following a contested case hearing.

8. In order to resolve this matter without proceeding to hearing, Respondent agrees to the following conditions:

- a. Respondent agrees to voluntarily surrender his license(s) without the possibility of reinstatement.

LICENSEE DECLARATION

I understand that this Combined Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement, and Final Order is subject to approval of the Board. If the Board does not approve this Order, it shall be of no force or affect to either party and shall not be admissible for any purpose in further proceedings in this matter. If the Board approves this Order, it shall be the full and final resolution of this matter.

I understand that I have the right to be represented by counsel in this matter.

I understand the State's counsel will present this Settlement Agreement and Final Order to the Board *ex parte*.

I agree to comply with the requirements set forth in this Settlement Agreement, and Final Order and understand that may failure to do so can result in additional discipline of my license.

I understand I have an opportunity to be heard and to contest the allegations against me in a formal hearing before the Board and that by waiving the formal hearing, *I waive my right to challenge the allegations against me and all attendant rights, including the right to appeal or seek judicial review of the Board's actions.

I understand that this Settlement Agreement, and Final Order is a public record that will become part of my permanent licensure file and will be available for public inspection and reproduction in accordance with the requirements of Iowa Code chapter 22.

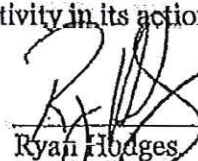
I understand that my name will be added to the national clearinghouse database kept by the national Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC).

12/20/2023
Date


Ryan Hodges

*By signing this document, I do not in any manner admit the allegations against me to be true and I deny the allegations. The complaining party who brought these allegations against me has also filed suit against me and multiple other innocent persons in Jane Doe v. Centerville Community School District, et al., against all parties, in LALA106642 in Wapello County. I believe all the allegations are slanderous and should be reviewed by the Board. The allegations are false, and I will be defending myself and cooperating with all parties to deny the charges. I believe the Board should not encourage this type of activity and should not be condoning this activity in its actions.

12/20/2023
Date


Ryan Hodges

ORDER

IT IS THE FINAL ORDER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL EXAMINERS THAT:

1. That Respondent's license(s) is hereby REVOKED without the possibility of reinstatement.

Dated this 11 day of January, 2024.



Joanne Tubbs
Interim Executive Director
Iowa Board of Educational
Examiners

Copies to:

Ryan Hodges
RESPONDENT

James W. Carney
ATTORNEY FOR RESPONDENT

Andrew E. Steffensmeier
ATTORNEY FOR THE STATE

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL EXAMINERS
OF THE STATE OF IOWA**

In the matter of	)	Case No.
	)	BOEE No. 22-199
RYAN HODGES,	)	
Folder # 822991	)	NOTICE OF HEARING
Respondent.	)	AND STATEMENT OF CHARGES

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners, exercising the jurisdiction conferred by Iowa Code chapters 17A and 272, has found probable cause of a violation of Board rules and ordered this matter scheduled for hearing.

A. TIME, PLACE AND NATURE OF HEARING

1. Hearing will be held on January 8, 2024 before Administrative Law Judge Laura E. Lockard acting on behalf of the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners. The hearing shall begin at 9:00 a.m. at the Department of Inspections and Appeals, Wallace State Office Bldg, Third Floor, 502 E. 9th Street (East 9th and Grand Avenue), Des Moines, Iowa. Please report to the main floor atrium (2nd floor) and call 515-281-6468 upon your arrival for assistance.

2. Answer. Within twenty (20) days of the date of service of this Notice of Hearing, you are required to file an Answer specifically admitting, denying, or otherwise responding to the allegations included within the Factual Allegations. In that Answer, you should also state whether you will require an adjustment of the date and time of the hearing. A copy of the Answer shall be provided by the Respondent to the Assistant Attorney General identified below.

3. Hearing Procedures. The procedural rules governing the conduct of the hearing are found at 282 Iowa Administrative Code chapter 11. At hearing, you may appear personally or be represented by an attorney, at your own expense. You will be allowed the opportunity to respond to the charges against you. Each party will be allowed to testify, examine and cross-examine witnesses, and present documentary evidence. If you fail to appear at the hearing, the Board may enter a default decision or proceed with the hearing and render a decision in your absence. If you need to request an alternative time or date for hearing, you must comply with the requirements of 282 Iowa Administrative Code rule 11.19.

If either party wishes to present telephonic testimony or to participate in the hearing by telephone, arrangements must be made at least ten (10) days in advance of the hearing date by filing a written request with the presiding Administrative Law Judge, Department of Inspections and Appeals, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319, or by faxing a written request to (515) 281-4477. A copy of the request for telephonic testimony must be served on the Board and all parties. Any

resistance to the request for telephone testimony must be filed within five (5) days of service of the notice.

4. Pre-hearing conference. Either party may request a pre-hearing conference to discuss evidentiary issues related to the hearing. The Board rules regarding pre-hearing conferences are found in 282 Iowa Administrative Code rule 11.18.

5. Prosecution. The office of the Attorney General is responsible for prosecuting and representing the public interest (the State) in this proceeding. Pleadings shall be filed with the Board and copies should be provided to counsel for the State at the following address:

Kristi A. Traynor
Assistant Attorney General
Iowa Department of Justice
2nd Floor, Hoover State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Telephone (515) 281-5309

6. Communications. You may not contact Board members by phone, letter, facsimile, e-mail, or in person about this Notice of Hearing or the pending charges. Board members may only receive information about the case when all parties have notice and an opportunity to participate, such as at the hearing or in pleadings you file with the Board office and serve on all parties in the case. You should direct any questions about this proceeding to Michael Cavin, the Board's Executive Director, at (515) 281-5849 or to Assistant Attorney General Traynor at (515) 281-5309.

B. SECTIONS OF STATUTES AND RULES INVOLVED

Count I

7. Respondent is charged with soliciting, encouraging, or consummating a romantic or otherwise inappropriate relationship with a student, in violation of 282 Iowa Administrative Code rule 25.3(1)(e)(4).

C. JURISDICTION AND LEGAL AUTHORITY

8. The Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to Iowa Code chapters 17A and 272. If any of the allegations against you are proven at hearing, the Board has authority to take disciplinary action against you under Iowa Code chapters 17A and 272, and 282 Iowa Administrative Code chapter 11.

D. FACTUAL CIRCUMSTANCES

9. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

10. [REDACTED]

11. [REDACTED]

12. [REDACTED]

E. SETTLEMENT

13. This matter may be resolved by surrender of your license or an agreement to accept a lesser sanction. The procedural rules governing the Board's settlement process are found at 282 Iowa Administrative Code rule 11.4(6). If you are interested in pursuing settlement of this matter, please contact the Assistant Attorney General identified in Section A, above.

Dated this 18th day of July, 2023.



Michael D. Cavin, Executive Director
Iowa Board of Educational Examiners

Copies to:

Ryan Hodges
RESPONDENT

James W. Carney
ATTORNEY FOR RESPONDENT

Kristi A. Traynor
ATTORNEY FOR THE STATE