



ALBERTA  
EDUCATION

Office of the Minister  
MLA, Calgary - Bow

April 16, 2024

Mr. David Gordon Stawn  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Stawn:

The decision and recommendation of the Professional Conduct Committee of the Alberta Teachers' Association has been referred to me, pursuant to the applicable *Teaching Profession Act*.

I reviewed the December 16, 2021 decision of the hearing committee, as well as the January 9, 2024 decision of the Professional Conduct Appeal Committee that upheld the hearing committee's findings regarding the allegations of unprofessional conduct made against you.

As you are aware, the hearing committee found your conduct to be unprofessional on five of the six charges. The charges related to you failing to treat students with dignity and respect and be considerate of their circumstances when you shouted or yelled at students to manage or respond to their behaviour, frightening them; transported students inappropriately by their wrists to the office; engaged in physical contact with students when neither the child nor others were in immediate danger; and engaged in actions towards your colleagues in a manner that was not consistent with your professional responsibilities towards them, thus failing to maintain the honour and dignity of the teaching profession.

The hearing committee considered your actions to be serious given the age and vulnerability of the students under your care as a teacher, and the demeaning manner in which you, on occasion, treated certain colleagues who lacked your positional authority and experience.

The hearing committee's recommendation was to suspend your teaching certificate for a period of three years. Having reviewed the matter and, based on the hearing committee's decision, reasons, and penalty, as well as the appeal committee's decision and reasons, I agree that the seriousness of your unprofessional conduct warrants the suspension of your Alberta Permanent Professional Certificate for a three-year period.

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I hereby suspend your Alberta Permanent Professional Certificate [REDACTED] effective immediately, until January 8, 2027, pursuant to Section 32 of the applicable Certification of Teachers and Teacher Leaders Regulation.

Copies of the hearing committee's decision, the errata document, the appeal committee's decision, and relevant legislation are enclosed for your reference.

A copy of this letter will be placed on your Alberta teacher registry file, and the decision of the hearing committee, the errata document, the appeal committee's decision, and my decision will be added to the online Teacher and Teacher Leader Registry.

Sincerely,



Demetrios Nicolaides ECA PhD  
Minister of Education

Enclosures

1. Professional Conduct Appeal Committee of the Alberta Teachers' Association – Decision
2. Hearing Committee of the Professional Conduct Committee of the Alberta Teachers' Association – Decision
3. Report of the Hearing Committee of the Professional Conduct Committee of the Alberta Teachers' Association – Errata
4. *Teaching Profession Act, RSA 2000, c T-2* (former legislation applied in accordance with Section 3 of the *Education Act Transitional Regulation*)