

BEFORE THE BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL EXAMINERS  
OF THE STATE OF IOWA

AUG 31 2016

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In the matter of:	)	BOEE Case No. 16-12
	)	Folder # 302260
<b>PERRY C. BEKKERUS,</b>	)	
	)	<b>COMBINED STATEMENT OF</b>
Respondent.	)	<b>CHARGES, SETTLEMENT</b>
	)	<b>AGREEMENT, AND FINAL ORDER</b>

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In accordance with the provisions of Iowa Code sections 17A.12(5) and 272.2(4) and 282 IAC 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.

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

A hearing in this matter will not be held, as the State and Respondent have entered into the following consent agreement in lieu of scheduling a contested case hearing. If the Board does not accept this Combined Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement, and Final Order, the matter may be set for hearing in accordance with 282 Iowa Administrative Code rule 11.7.

**STIPULATIONS**

1. Respondent holds a master educator license (FOLDER # 302260) with the following endorsements: K-8 MUSIC; 5-12 MUSIC. Respondent's license is current and will next expire on June 30, 2017.
2. During the relevant facts of this matter, Respondent was employed with Denison Community Schools.

3. On January 15, 2016, the Board of Educational Examiners received a complaint against Respondent alleging a violation of the Code of Ethics.

4. On April 8, 2016, the Board found probable cause to proceed to hearing based upon the facts set forth in paragraph 6 below.

5. The Board charged Respondent with violation of the following Board rules: 282 Iowa Administrative Code 25.3(1)(e)(4), which prohibits soliciting, encouraging, or consummating a romantic or otherwise inappropriate relationship with a student; 282 Iowa Administrative Code 25.3(4)(b), which prohibits converting public property or funds to the personal use of the practitioner; and 282 Iowa Administrative Code 25.3(6)(c), which requires practitioners to make reasonable effort to protect the health and safety of students and prohibits the creation of conditions harmful to student learning.

6. The Board's investigation revealed that Respondent exchanged messages of a personal nature with a fourteen-year-old incoming freshman student on Facebook at 2 a.m. In addition, the investigation revealed that Respondent inappropriately used his school-issued email account.

7. Respondent denies the allegations but agrees to this settlement to resolve the pending charges.

#### **SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

8. This Combined Statement of Charges, 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.

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

- a. Respondent accepts a WRITTEN REPRIMAND.
- b. Respondent's license will be SUSPENDED for eighteen months, beginning on the date of his resignation from the Denison Community Schools on March 31, 2016.
- c. Respondent agrees to successfully complete the course "Prevention and Correction." This course is offered online by the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification. Respondent is responsible for all costs associated with the completion of the educational course. Respondent shall provide the Board with proof of completion of the Ethics for Educators course within one (1) year of the Board's acceptance of this Combined Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement, and Final Order.

## LICENSEE DECLARATION

I understand that this Combined Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement, and Final Order is subject to the approval of the Board and will have no force or effect if it is not accepted by the Board.

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

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

I understand that this Combined Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement, and Final Order is a public record, which will become part of my permanent licensure file and will be available for public inspection and reproduction.

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).

August 30, 2016

Date

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in dark ink. The signature appears to be "P. C. BEKKERUS" written in a cursive style.

PERRY C. BEKKERUS, Respondent


**ORDER**

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

1. The conduct with which Respondent has been charged constitutes a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics governing the teaching profession. Respondent is REPRIMANDED for the charged conduct, and Respondent's license is SUSPENDED until October 31, 2017.

2. Respondent shall successfully complete at least fifteen in-person contact hours in "Ethics for Educators." Respondent is responsible for all costs associated with the completion of the educational course. Respondent shall provide the Board with proof of completion of the Ethics for Educators course within one (1) year of the date of this Order.

3. In determining the appropriate sanction to impose in this case, the Board has considered the nature and seriousness of the allegations as well as mitigating circumstances.

*The day of September*  
Dated this ~~30th~~ day of August, 2016. 



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Ann Lebo, Executive Director  
Iowa Board of Educational Examiners

Copies to:

Perry C. Bekkerus  
RESPONDENT

Christy Hickman  
Staff Counsel  
IOWA STATE EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Jordan G. Esbrook  
ATTORNEY FOR THE STATE