



## Before the Education Practices Commission of the State of Florida

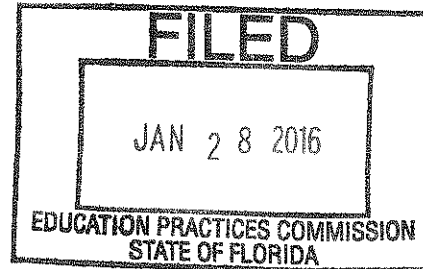
PAM STEWART, as the  
Commissioner of Education,

Petitioner,

vs.

ALTON ROBERTS,

Respondent.



EPC CASE N<sup>o</sup>: 15-0455-RT

Index N<sup>o</sup>: **16-039-AS**

PPS N<sup>o</sup>: 123-0799

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### Final Order

Respondent, Alton Roberts, holds Florida educator's certificate no. 584629. Petitioner has filed an Administrative Complaint seeking suspension, revocation, permanent revocation or other disciplinary action against the certificate.

Petitioner and Respondent have entered into a Settlement Agreement for resolution of this cause. The Settlement Agreement and the Administrative Complaint are attached to and made a part of this Final Order.

A Teacher Hearing Panel of the Education Practices Commission met on January 14, 2016, in Tallahassee, Florida. The Commission accepts the Settlement Agreement as the appropriate resolution of this cause.

It is therefore ORDERED that the Settlement Agreement is hereby ACCEPTED and Respondent shall comply with its terms and conditions.

This Order becomes effective upon filing.

DONE AND ORDERED, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2016.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DAVID R. THOMPSON, Presiding Officer

**COPIES FURNISHED TO:**

Office of Professional Practices  
Services

Bureau of Educator Certification

Superintendent of Schools  
Dade County Schools  
1450 NE Second Avenue #912  
Miami, FL 33132

Director  
Office of Professional Standards  
Dade County Schools  
1500 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 222  
Miami, FL 33132

Probation Office

Recovery Network Program  
for Educators

Lee Ann Gustafson  
Assistant Attorney General

Claudia Llado, Clerk  
Division of Administrative Hearings

**NOTICE OF RIGHT TO JUDICIAL REVIEW**

UNLESS WAIVED, A PARTY WHO IS ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THIS FINAL ORDER IS ENTITLED TO JUDICIAL REVIEW PURSUANT TO SECTION 120.68, FLORIDA STATUTES. REVIEW PROCEEDINGS ARE GOVERNED BY THE FLORIDA RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE. SUCH PROCEEDINGS ARE COMMENCED BY FILING ONE COPY OF A NOTICE OF APPEAL WITH THE EDUCATION PRACTICES COMMISSION AND A SECOND COPY, ACCOMPANIED BY FILING FEES PRESCRIBED BY LAW, WITH THE DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL, FIRST DISTRICT, OR WITH THE DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL IN THE APPELLATE DISTRICT WHERE THE PARTY RESIDES. THE NOTICE OF APPEAL MUST BE FILED WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS OF RENDITION OF THIS ORDER.

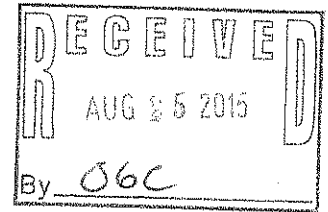
**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing Order was mailed to Alton Roberts, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Miami Gardens, Florida 33169 and Carol R. Buxton, Esq., FEA, 1516 East Hillcrest Street, Suite 109, Orlando, Florida 32803 by Certified U.S. Mail and by electronic mail to Bonnie Wilmot, Deputy General Counsel, Suite 1232, Turlington Building, 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400 this **28<sup>th</sup>** day of **January**, 2016.



Gretchen Kelley Brantley, Clerk  
Education Practices Commission

STATE OF FLORIDA  
EDUCATION PRACTICES COMMISSION



PAM STEWART, as  
Commissioner of Education

Petitioner,

vs.

CASE NO. 123-0799

ALTON ROBERTS,

Respondent.

\_\_\_\_\_ /

**SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

Petitioner and Respondent hereby stipulate and agree as follows:

1. **Certification.** Respondent holds Florida Educator's Certificate Number 584629 issued by the Department of Education covering the areas of Physical Education, which is valid through June 30, 2016.
2. **Employment.** At all times pertinent hereto, Respondent was employed as a Physical Education Teacher at Miami Norland High School in the Miami-Dade County School District.
3. **Allegations.** Respondent neither admits nor denies, but elects not to contest the allegations set forth in Petitioner's Administrative Complaint, which are incorporated herein by reference.
4. **Letter of Reprimand.** Respondent agrees to accept a letter of reprimand, a copy of which shall be placed in his certification file with the Department of Education and a copy of which shall be placed in his personnel file with the employing school district.
5. **Recovery Network Program.**
  - a. **Evaluation.** Respondent agrees to:
    - 1) submit to an evaluation relating to the issues cited in the Administrative Complaint as determined by the Recovery Network Program (RNP) and conducted by a Florida licensed and RNP approved psychologist, psychiatrist, mental health counselor and/or substance abuse counselor.

2) provide the RNP written verification from the treatment provider(s) of successful completion of the evaluation within sixty (60) days of issuance of the Final Order accepting this Settlement Agreement **OR** within sixty (60) days of the initial date of employment in a position requiring a Florida educator's certificate, whichever occurs later, and authorize the RNP to release evidence of satisfaction of this requirement directly to any employing school district or private or charter school;

3) undergo any counseling or treatment as may be prescribed by said professional;

4) provide the RNP and the employing school district or private or charter school with written verification from the treatment provider(s) of completion of all recommended treatments within sixty (60) days of completion;

5) submit to periodic substance abuse screenings at the direction of the RNP, the employing school district or private or charter school and authorize reporting of results to each entity; and

6) take all medications as prescribed, if applicable.

b. **Prior Evaluation.** If Respondent has undergone evaluation(s) and treatment and/or counseling after the incident(s) alleged in the Administrative Complaint, the evaluation(s) and treatment and/or counseling may be used in lieu of the evaluation(s) and treatment and/or counseling agreed to herein, if acceptable to the RNP.

c. **Employment.** If Respondent is not employed in a position requiring a Florida educator's certificate on the date, or within one (1) year of the date, the initial RNP evaluation(s) required herein are performed, Respondent agrees to submit to follow-up evaluation(s) as determined by the RNP within sixty (60) days of being employed in such a position.

d. **Costs.** Respondent shall bear responsibility for all costs associated with the evaluation, treatment and counseling.

6. **Probation.** Respondent agrees that he shall be placed on probation for a period of four (4) employment years. If Respondent is currently employed in a position requiring a Florida educator's certificate, probation shall begin upon the issuance of the Final Order by the Education Practices Commission (EPC) provided the EPC has accepted this Settlement Agreement. If Respondent is not currently employed in a position requiring a Florida educator's certificate, probation shall begin upon his re-employment in such a position. In the event Respondent's employment is interrupted for any reason prior to the expiration of probation, the

probation shall be tolled until Respondent resumes employment in a position requiring a Florida educator's certificate. As conditions of probation, Respondent:

a. shall immediately contact the Department of Education upon employment in Florida in a position requiring a Florida educator's certificate or upon termination from such a position. If currently employed in such a position, Respondent shall contact the Department of Education within ten (10) days of the issuance of the Final Order accepting this Settlement Agreement and Respondent shall provide the Department of Education with the name and address of his work site as well as the name, address and telephone number of his immediate supervisor;

b. shall make arrangements for his immediate supervisor to provide the EPC with a true and accurate copy of each written annual performance evaluation or assessment prepared by his supervisor within ten (10) days of its preparation;

c. shall pay to the EPC \$150.00 within the first six (6) months of each probation year to defray the costs of monitoring probation;

d. shall, within the first year of probation, take a 3-credit hour college level course in the area of Ethics. The class may be taken in person, or from an accredited on-line source, and Respondent shall submit an official college transcript verifying successful completion of same with a grade of "B" or higher to the Department of Education;

e. shall submit to periodic substance abuse testing (costs to be borne by Respondent). If the test results indicate a need for a substance abuse evaluation, or if Respondent receives any new charges involving substance abuse, the Respondent agrees to submit within thirty (30) days of notification by the Recovery Network Program (RNP) to an evaluation by a substance abuse counselor or other qualified provider approved by the RNP. Respondent also agrees that subsequent to the evaluation he will continue to attend counseling if recommended, and follow all courses of treatment (costs to be borne by the Respondent). Respondent also agrees to direct reporting of the RNP evaluation and other results to his employer;

f. shall have the scope of his employment restricted to not transporting students in or on any motor vehicle;

g. shall not consume, inject or ingest of any controlled substances unless prescribed or administered for legitimate medical purposes;

h. shall violate no law and fully comply with all district school board regulations, school rules, and State Board of Education Rule 6A-10.081; and

i. shall satisfactorily perform his duties in a competent, professional manner.

7. **Fine.** Respondent agrees to pay a fine in the amount of \$1,000.00 to the EPC within two (2) years of the date of the Final Order accepting this Settlement Agreement.

8. **Violation.** In the event Respondent fails to comply with each condition set forth herein, he agrees that the Petitioner shall be authorized to file an Administrative Complaint or a Notice of Violation with the EPC seeking sanctions against his Florida educator's certificate up to and including permanent revocation of his Florida educator's certificate and a permanent bar from re-application for a Florida educator's certificate, based upon the violation of the terms of this Settlement Agreement.

9. **Costs and Fees.** Respondent agrees that any costs associated with the fulfillment of the terms of this Settlement Agreement shall be his sole responsibility. These costs include, but are not limited to, those associated with the Recovery Network Program (RNP) and Probation, if applicable. The probation monitoring fee shall be held in abeyance if Respondent is not employed as an educator pursuant to the terms of the Probation.

10. **Force and Effect.** This Settlement Agreement constitutes an offer of settlement of disputed issues of material fact until accepted and executed by all parties. The Settlement Agreement is void and has no force or effect unless executed by all parties and accepted by the EPC. If the Settlement Agreement is not accepted and executed by all parties, the terms herein shall be inadmissible in any subsequent formal or informal administrative hearing or in any other legal action between the parties.

11. **Notice of "Three Strikes" Provision.** Respondent is hereby put on notice that Section 1012.795(6)(b), Florida Statutes, provides for permanent revocation of an educator's certificate under certain circumstances when the educator's certificate has been sanctioned by the Education Practices Commission on two (2) previous occasions.

12. **Waiver of Rights.** Respondent understands provisions of this Settlement Agreement, their legal effect, and his rights under Florida law to a formal hearing before a duly designated administrative law judge of the Division of Administrative Hearings (DOAH) or an informal hearing before the EPC. Respondent specifically waives his right to both a formal and an informal hearing, except he may appear before the EPC in order to urge the adoption of this Settlement Agreement. Respondent further acknowledges that he is under no duress, coercion or undue influence to execute this Settlement Agreement and that he has had the opportunity to receive the advice of legal counsel prior to signing this Settlement Agreement.

13. **Approval.** When fully executed, this Settlement Agreement shall be submitted to the EPC with the joint request by the parties that the EPC accept and adopt the terms of this Settlement Agreement as the basis for its Final Order in this proceeding. The parties understand

that the EPC has the discretion to reject this Settlement Agreement and order a full evidentiary hearing on the allegations of the Administrative Complaint if, in the exercise of its discretion, it deems such action to be appropriate.

14. **Notice.** Respondent waives all statutory and regulatory provisions concerning notice of hearing and agrees that this Settlement Agreement may be presented to the EPC for consideration at its next available scheduled meeting, provided that Respondent is given reasonable advanced notice of time, place and date of said meeting.

(SIGNATURES AND NOTARIZATION ON FOLLOWING PAGE)

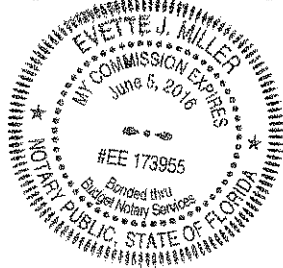


IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Settlement Agreement on this 11<sup>TH</sup> day of AUGUST, 2015.

A. J. Roberts  
ALTON ROBERTS

STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF Dade

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 11 day of August, 2015, by \_\_\_\_\_, who is \_\_\_\_\_ personally known or produced FLDL \_\_\_\_\_ as identification [type of identification produced].



[Signature]  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
My commission expires:

Bonnie Wilmot  
BONNIE WILMOT  
Deputy General Counsel  
Suite 1244, Turlington Building  
325 West Gaines Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400  
Telephone (850) 245-0443  
Facsimile (850) 245-9425

ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER

[Signature]  
CAROL R. BUXTON, ESQUIRE  
Florida Education Association  
1516 Hillcrest Street, Suite 109  
Orlando, Florida 32803  
Telephone (407)893-3373  
Facsimile (407)893-3369

ATTORNEY FOR RESPONDENT

**STATE OF FLORIDA  
EDUCATION PRACTICES COMMISSION**

**PAM STEWART, as  
Commissioner of Education,**

**Petitioner,**

**vs.**

**CASE NO. 123-0799**

**ALTON ROBERTS,**

**Respondent.**

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**ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT**

Petitioner, Pam Stewart, as Commissioner of Education, files this Administrative Complaint against ALTON ROBERTS. The Petitioner seeks the appropriate disciplinary sanction of the Respondent's educator's certificate pursuant to Sections 1012.315, 1012.795, and 1012.796, Florida Statutes, and pursuant to Rule 6A-10.081, Florida Administrative Code, Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida, said sanctions specifically set forth in Sections 1012.795(1) and 1012.796(7), Florida Statutes.

The Petitioner alleges:

**JURISDICTION**

1. The Respondent holds Florida Educator's Certificate 584629, covering the areas of Physical Education, which is valid through June 30, 2016.
2. At all times pertinent hereto, the Respondent was employed as a Physical Education Teacher at Miami Norland High School in the Miami-Dade County School District.

**MATERIAL ALLEGATIONS**

3. On or about June 24, 2005, in Miami-Dade County, Florida, Respondent was in possession of cocaine. Respondent was arrested and charged with Possession of Cocaine. On or about December 17, 2008, an order of nolle prosequi was entered for the Possession of Cocaine charge upon Respondent's completion of a deferred prosecution agreement.
4. On or about March 1, 2011, in Miami-Dade County, Florida, Respondent purchased cocaine. Respondent was arrested and charged with Purchase of, or Possession with Intent to Purchase, Cocaine. On or about April 18, 2012, an order of nolle prosequi was entered

for the charge of Purchase of, or Possession with Intent to Purchase, Cocaine upon Respondent's completion of a deferred prosecution agreement.

5. Respondent failed to report within 48 hours the arrests alleged in paragraphs 3 and 4 of this Administrative Complaint to the appropriate authorities within the Miami-Dade County School District.

The Petitioner charges:

**STATUTE VIOLATIONS**

**COUNT 1:** The Respondent is in violation of Section 1012.795(1)(d), Florida Statutes, in that Respondent has been guilty of gross immorality or an act involving moral turpitude as defined by rule of the State Board of Education.

**COUNT 2:** The Respondent is in violation of Section 1012.795(1)(j), Florida Statutes, in that Respondent has violated the Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession prescribed by State Board of Education rules.

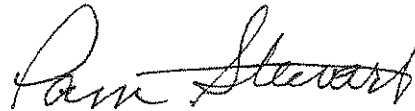
**RULE VIOLATIONS**

**COUNT 3:** The Respondent is in violation of Rule 6A-10.081(5)(m), Florida Administrative Code, in that Respondent has failed to self-report within forty-eight (48) hours to appropriate authorities (as determined by district) any arrests/charges involving the abuse of a child or the sale and/or possession of a controlled substance. Such notice shall not be considered an admission of guilt nor shall such notice be admissible for any purpose in any proceeding, civil or criminal, administrative or judicial, investigatory or adjudicatory. In addition, Respondent shall self-report any conviction, finding of guilt, withholding of adjudication, commitment to a pretrial diversion program, or entering of a plea of guilty or Nolo Contendere for any criminal offense other than a minor traffic violation within forty-eight (48) hours after the final judgment. When handling sealed and expunged records disclosed under this rule, school districts shall comply with the confidentiality provisions of Sections 943.0585(4)(c) and 943.059(4)(c), Florida Statutes.

(SIGNATURE ON FOLLOWING PAGE)

WHEREFORE, based on the reasons set forth herein and in accordance with the Explanation of Rights and Election of Rights forms attached to and made a part of this Administrative Complaint, Petitioner respectfully recommends that the Education Practices Commission impose an appropriate sanction against the Respondent's educator's certificate pursuant to the authority provided in Sections 1012.795(1) and 1012.796(7), Florida Statutes. The sanctions imposed by the Education Practices Commission may include, but are not limited to, any one or a combination of the following: issuing the Respondent a written reprimand; placing the Respondent on probation for any period of time; restricting the Respondent's authorized scope of practice; assessing the Respondent an administrative fine; directing the Respondent to enroll in the Recovery Network Program; suspending the Respondent's educator's certificate for a period of time not to exceed five years; revoking the Respondent's educator's certificate for a period of time up to 10 years or permanently; determining the Respondent to be ineligible for certification; or barring the Respondent from reapplying for an educator's certificate for a period of time up to 10 years or permanently.

EXECUTED on this 2 day of February, 2015.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pam Stewart", is written over a horizontal line.

PAM STEWART, as  
Commissioner of Education  
State of Florida



**EDUCATION PRACTICES COMMISSION**  
STATE OF FLORIDA

**GRETCHEN KELLEY BRANTLEY**  
Executive Director

**LEE ANN GUSTAFSON**  
Counsel

**DAVID R. THOMPSON**  
Chairperson

**CHRISTIE GOLD**  
Co-Chairperson

January 14, 2016

Alton Roberts  
[REDACTED]

Miami Gardens, Florida 33169

Re: Pam Stewart vs. Alton Roberts  
EPC No.: 15-0455-RT; DOE No.: 584629

Dear Mr. Roberts:

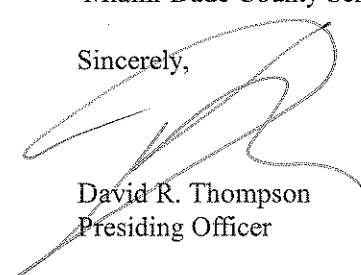
As you know, the teacher panel of the Education Practices Commission reviewed the matter pending against you. Based upon the panel's consideration of this matter and upon the panel's acceptance of your Settlement Agreement, you are hereby reprimanded.

This panel, composed of your peers, believes that, as a teacher, you are required to exercise a measure of leadership beyond reproach. By your actions, you have lessened the reputation of all who practice our profession. The profession cannot condone your actions, nor can the public who employ us.

The Education Practices Commission sincerely hopes it is your intention to never allow this situation to occur again or indeed, to violate any professional obligation in fulfilling your responsibilities as an educator. To violate the standards of the profession will surely result in further action being taken against you.

This letter of reprimand is being placed in your state certification file, and a copy is being sent to the Miami-Dade County School Board for placement in your personnel file.

Sincerely,

  
David R. Thompson  
Presiding Officer