



Before the Education Practices Commission of the State of Florida

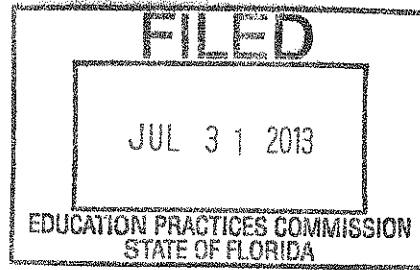
PAM STEWART, as the
Commissioner of Education,

Petitioner,

vs.

MICHAEL JOHN STRAND,

Respondent.



EPC CASE N^o: 13-0099-RT

Index N^o: **13-170-FOI**

PPS N^o 112-3034

Final Order

Respondent, Michael John Strand, holds Florida educator's certificate no. 1019752. Petitioner has filed an Administrative Complaint seeking suspension, revocation, permanent revocation or other disciplinary action against the certificate. A copy of the Administrative Complaint is attached to and made a part of this Order.

Service of the Administrative Complaint was made upon Respondent by certified mail. Respondent has failed to respond to the Administrative Complaint and has not requested a hearing or any other proceeding.

This cause came before a teacher panel of the Education Practices Commission on June 28, 2013, in Altamonte Springs, Florida. Respondent was not present at the meeting.

The Commission finds that Respondent was properly served with the Administrative Complaint, has failed to respond timely, and has waived any right to be heard.

Since Respondent has not replied to the Administrative Complaint and has not contested the factual allegations, Petitioner offered the investigative file into evidence to prove the facts as alleged in the Administrative Complaint. The Commission finds these materials clearly and convincingly support the allegation and establish a prima facie case.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The allegations of fact in paragraphs 1 through 7 of the Administrative Complaint are adopted as findings of fact by the panel.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The conclusions of law alleged in counts 1 through 4 of the Administrative Complaint are adopted as conclusions of law by the panel.
2. There is competent, substantial evidence to support the panel's conclusions.
3. The violations committed by Respondent warrant disciplinary action by the Education Practices Commission.

PENALTY

1. The Respondent's Florida educator's certificate is hereby suspended for a period of three years from the date of the Final Order.
2. Upon employment in any public or private position requiring a Florida educator's certificate, Respondent shall be placed on 2 employment years of probation with the conditions that during that period, he shall:
 - A. Immediately notify the investigative office in the Department of Education upon employment or termination of employment in the state in any public or private

position requiring a Florida educator's certificate.

B. Have Respondent's immediate supervisor submit annual performance reports to the investigative office in the Department of Education.

C. Pay to the Commission during the first 6 months of each probation year the administrative costs (\$150) of monitoring probation assessed to the educator.

D. Violate no law and shall fully comply with all district school board policies, school rules, and State Board of Education rules.

E. Satisfactorily perform all assigned duties in a competent, professional manner.

F. Bear all costs of complying with the terms of a final order entered by the Commission.

G. Provide a certified college transcript to verify successful (a grade of "pass" or a letter grade no lower than a "B") completion of 3 hours of college level course-work in the area of Ethics, which may be taken online, within three years or prior to recertification.

H. Respondent is assessed an administrative fine of \$500.00 to be paid within one year from the date of the Final Order.

This order shall become effective upon filing with the Clerk of the Commission.

DONE AND ORDERED, this 29th day of July, 2013.


MARK STRAUSS, Presiding Officer

COPIES FURNISHED TO:

Bureau of Professional Practices

Bureau of Teacher Certification

Florida Administrative Law Reports

Superintendent
Putnam County Schools
200 S. 7th St.
Palatka, FL 32177-4615

Director, Human Resources
Putnam County Schools
200 S. 7th St.
Palatka, FL 32177-4615

Rachel Clark
Assistant Attorney General

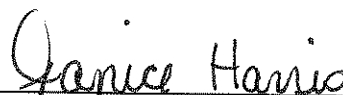
Probation Office

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO JUDICIAL REVIEW

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 Michael John Strand, [REDACTED] Haverhill, MA 01830-5509 by Certified U.S. Mail and by electronic mail to Margaret O'Sullivan Parker, Deputy General Counsel, Suite 1232, Turlington Building, 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400 this 31st day of July, 2013.



Janice Harris,
Education Practices Commission

STATE OF FLORIDA
EDUCATION PRACTICES COMMISSION

PAM STEWART, as
Commissioner of Education,

Petitioner,

vs.

CASE NO. 112-3034

MICHAEL JOHN STRAND,

Respondent.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT

Petitioner, Pam Stewart, as Commissioner of Education, files this Administrative Complaint against MICHAEL JOHN STRAND. 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 6B-1.006, 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 1019752, covering the areas of English and Social Science, which is valid through June 30, 2013.
2. At all times pertinent hereto, the Respondent was employed as an English Teacher at Palatka High School in the Putnam County School District.

MATERIAL ALLEGATIONS

3. In February 2012, Respondent engaged in a sexual relationship with an eighteen-year-old female, [REDACTED], who, at the time, was a student of Palatka High School ("PHS").
4. On or about April 3, 2012, [REDACTED] informed Respondent that [REDACTED] was pregnant, at which point Respondent accepted responsibility for the baby and agreed to help [REDACTED] financially.
5. On or about April 23, 2012, Respondent's principal asked Respondent about an anonymous tip alleging that a male PHS teacher impregnated a PHS student. Respondent told his

principal that Respondent did not know anything about this issue and that it was "certainly not" him or words to that effect.

6. On or about May 4, 2012, when Respondent's principal asked Respondent if Respondent had gotten an 18-year-old student pregnant, Respondent stated "no." In a signed statement, dated May 4, 2012, Respondent attested to never having had contact with [REDACTED]. Respondent submitted the signed statement to his assistant principals. On or about May 4, 2012, after being shown a picture of [REDACTED] and after being asked if Respondent had ever seen student [REDACTED], Respondent stated, "No I have never seen her" or words to that effect.

7. On or about May 21, 2012, Respondent was suspended from his position with Putnam County Schools and recommended for termination. On or about May 22, 2012, Respondent submitted his notice of resignation from his position with Putnam County Schools. On or about June 6, 2012, Putnam County Schools terminated Respondent from his position of employment.

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)(g), Florida Statutes, in that Respondent has been found guilty of personal conduct which seriously reduces his effectiveness as an employee of the school board.

COUNT 3: 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 4: The allegations of misconduct set forth herein are in violation of Rule 6B-1.006(5)(a), Florida Administrative Code, in that Respondent has failed to maintain honesty in all professional dealings.

(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 11th day of January, 2013.



PAM STEWART, as
Commissioner of Education
State of Florida