



BEFORE THE GEORGIA PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

Robert Vandel
Certificate # 372120

Respondent.

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PSC NO. 20-7-39

VOLUNTARY SURRENDER

I, Robert Vandel, holder of Certificate #372120, to practice as an educator in the State of Georgia pursuant to O.C.G.A. T. 20. Ch. 2 as amended, hereby freely, knowingly and voluntarily surrender said certificate to the Georgia Professional Standards Commission. I hereby acknowledge that this surrender shall have the same effect as a revocation of my certificate. I knowingly forfeit and relinquish all right, title and privilege of holding myself out as and being able to practice as an educator in the public schools in the State of Georgia, unless and until such time as my certificate may be reinstated or a new certificate issued. I will not serve as a volunteer or be employed as an educator, paraprofessional, aide, substitute teacher, or in any other position in a public school in the State of Georgia.

I understand and hereby agree that I shall not be eligible to petition to apply for a new certificate or reinstatement until three (3) years from the effective date of this Surrender. I understand and agree that the decision to reinstate or reissue a certificate will be within the sole discretion of the Commission. I also understand and agree that should the Commission consider a petition to apply for a new certificate, the Commission shall have access to the entire investigative file in this matter.

I understand that since there may have been a complaint and investigation concerning

alleged violation(s) of the laws and rules and regulations governing the practice of certificate holders, that I have a right to a hearing in this matter. I hereby freely, knowingly, and voluntarily enter into this agreement surrendering my certificate and waive my right to a hearing.

This Surrender shall become effective immediately upon acceptance thereof by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission. I understand and agree that this document will be considered to be a public record entered as the final disposition of disciplinary proceedings that may be pending against me, and that this action shall be considered to be and may be recorded as a final revocation order of the Commission.

BY:



Robert Vandel
Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed
before me this 21
of September
Jennifer R. Hillhouse
NOTARY PUBLIC
My Commission expires:



ACCEPTANCE OF SURRENDER

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission, this 6th day of October, 2020, hereby accepts the voluntary surrender of Certificate # 372120

STANDARDS

GEORGIA PROFESSIONAL
COMMISSION

BY:



Brian Sirmans, Chair

ATTEST:



Matt Arthur, Executive Secretary

Probable Cause Case

20-7-39

Case Number: PCE 20-7-39
Investigator: Bill Van Hoose
Position Held: Middle School Teacher
Employment Status: Terminated – 6/09/2020
Complaint Origin: School System

Complaint: The complainant school system reported the educator engaged in inappropriate relationships with students.

Findings of Fact: The educator, a middle school teacher at a charter school, reportedly made inappropriate and repeated physical contact with an 8th grade student by grabbing her shoulders whenever she would walk by his desk. The educator was reprimanded for the issue and returned to duty. The educator later began sending messages to multiple female 8th grade students, and made a video call to one student asking to see her neck and relating that he would put a hickey on her neck if he was with her. One student received eighty message from the educator within a 10 day period, of which only seven were academically related. The matter was reported to DFCS, however, no action was taken. The educator also called students by inappropriate names such as "flirt" and "tall ugly girl" and "gymnastic girl." The educator was terminated from the school system. During the subsequent Commission investigation, the educator admitted to sending the messages, however, denied any ill intent. A check of the records on file at the PSC revealed that the educator had been previously suspended twice and received a reprimand from the commission. The educator executed a voluntary surrender of his teaching certificate.

Standard, Rules or Laws in Complaint:

PSC Rule 505-6-.01 (3b) - The educator failed to maintain a professional relationship with students by committing an act of child abuse, including physical and verbal abuse; committing an act of cruelty to children or any act of child endangerment; committing any sexual act with a student or soliciting such from a student; engaging in or permitting harassment of or misconduct toward a student that would violate a state or federal law; soliciting, encouraging, or consummating an inappropriate written, verbal, electronic or physical relationship with a student; furnishing tobacco, alcohol, or illegal/unauthorized drugs to any student; and failing to prevent the use of alcohol or illegal/unauthorized drugs by students who are under the educator's supervision (including but not limited to the educator's residence or any other private setting).

PSC Rule 505-6-.01 (3i) - The educator failed to demonstrate conduct that follows generally recognized professional standards and preserves the dignity and integrity of the education profession. Unethical conduct includes but is not limited to a resignation that would equate to a breach of contract; any conduct that impairs and/or diminishes the certificate holder's ability to function professionally in his or her employment position; or behavior or conduct that is detrimental to the health, welfare, discipline, or morals of students.

PSC Rule 505-6-.01 (5a7) - The educator is unfit for employment as an educator for other good and sufficient cause;

Investigative Findings:

The case currently before the Commission was submitted by the complainant school system's **Principal**.

- The educator in this matter was a middle school teacher at a charter school.
- The educator was terminated on June 09, 2020
- The local investigation was conducted by the school system's Principal and was assisted by an outside investigator.
- The investigation began due to a finding by the technology director who discovered an inordinate number of messages to several students initiated by the educator.
- According to the principal, the educator was investigated in December 2019, after making inappropriate and repeated physical contact with an 8th grade student. The contact consisted of grabbing the student by the shoulders whenever she would walk by his desk. The educator was reprimanded for the issue and returned to duty.
- The educator later began sending messages to three female 8th grade students, and made a video call to one student making an inappropriate comment.
- Student 1 related that the educator called her at her home and after speaking with her in front of her mother asked to see where she studies. The student went to her bedroom, where the educator asked to see her neck. The educator then stated that he would put a hickey on her neck if he was with her. The student ended the call and reported the incident to her mother.
- Student 1 received eighty message from the educator within a 10-day period, of which only seven were academically related, however, none of the messages were sexual in nature.
- Student 2 and 3 also received several unsolicited messages from the educator, however, not to the degree as student 1.
- During the investigation, it was learned that the educator also called students by inappropriate names such as "flirt" and "tall ugly girl" and "gymnastic girl."
- The educator was terminated from the school system. The matter was reported to DFCS, however, no action was taken.

The commission's investigator interviewed the **Educator**.

- During the subsequent Commission investigation, the educator admitted to sending the messages, however, denied any ill intent. A check of the records on file at the PSC revealed that the educator had been previously suspended twice and received a reprimand from the commission. The educator executed a voluntary surrender of his teaching certificate.

Evidence in the Case File supporting the Findings of Fact:

1. PSC complaint and other employment documents.
2. Voluntary surrender.
3. Audio of educator interview.

MAGISTRATE COURT OF CHEROKEE COUNTY
CRIMINAL ARREST WARRANT APPLICATION

22MW0426

DATE 2/18/2022 10:26:52 AM

CaseNo:HSI21-10122

WARRANT NO:CE0130138-1, CE0130138-2

PROSECUTOR: Travis Wood

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

CITY:HOLLY SPRINGS STATE:GA ZIP: 30142

PHONE NO: [REDACTED] FAX: E-MAIL:

ACCUSED: Robert Allen Vandel

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

CITY: CANTON STATE: GA ZIP: 30114

PHONE NO: FAX: E-MAIL:

RACE W AGE: 64 SEX: Male HT: 5'10" WT: 175 EYES: BLU (Blue) HAIR: GRY (Grey)

SPECIAL BODY MARK :

DOB: REDACTED SSN: AUTO TAG

WITNESSES: Wood Travis : Holly Springs Police department

DATE OF INCIDENT: 1/4/2021 TO 6/1/2021 TIME OF INCIDENT: 8:00:00AM To 3:00:00PM

INCIDENT LOCATION : 485 Toonigh Rd, WOODSTOCK, GA, 30188

- FELONY FAMILY VIOLENCE PROBATION
 MISDEMEANOR SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF BOND PAROLE

2/18/2022 10:27:14 AM

2/18/2022 10:26:33 AM



Magistrate: J E Drane III

Title:

Prosecutor: Travis Wood

Agency: Holly Springs Police department

CRIMINAL WARRANT

**MAGISTRATE COURT OF CHEROKEE
COUNTY
GEORGIA, CHEROKEE COUNTY**

**Warrant No. CE0130138
Police Case No.HSI21-10122**

AFFIDAVIT FOR ARREST

Personally came Travis Wood, (hereinafter called the Affiant), who on oath says that, to the best of his knowledge and belief, Robert Allen Vandel, no known aliases, (hereinafter called the Accused) , did commit the following offense(s):

COUNT 1 - violation of O.C.G.A. Section 16-6-22.1(b) SEXUAL BATTERY (minor) (1 count) (Felony) , between on 1/4/2021 at 8:00:00AM and on 6/1/2021 at 3:00:00PM at 485 Toonigh Rd, WOODSTOCK in the County of CHEROKEE, GA, for that said accused did intentionally make physical contact with the intimate parts of the body of **REDACTED** a person under the age of 16, without his or her consent. Said accused did hit the victim on her **REDACTED** 12 inch ruler during engineering class at Lyndon Academy during the Spring of 2021.

Probable Cause:

During a forensic interview on 9/30/2021, the victim, 13 year old **REDACTED**) stated that during the Spring semester of 2021, the accused, Robert Vandel (DOB **REDACTED**) did hit her on her buttocks with a 12 inch ruler during engineering class at Lyndon Academy while th **REDACTED** s her teacher .

COUNT 2 - violation of O.C.G.A. Section 16-6-22.1(b) SEXUAL BATTERY (minor) (1 count) (Felony) , between on 1/4/2021 at 8:00:00AM and on 6/1/2021 at 3:00:00PM at 485 Toonigh Rd, WOODSTOCK in the County of CHEROKEE, GA, for that said accused did intentionally make physical contact with the intimate parts of the body of **REDACTED** a person under the age of 16, without his or her consent. Said accused did walk behind her very **REDACTED** he was bent over a desk, rubbing his penis against her buttocks.

Probable Cause:

During a forensic interview on 9/30/2021, the victim, 13 year old **REDACTED**) stated that during the Spring semester of 2021, the accused, Robert Vandel (DOB **REDACTED**) r very slowly while she was bent over a desk, rubbing his penis against her buttocks during engineering class at Lyndon Academy while the accused was her teacher.

WHEREFORE, Affiant makes this affidavit that a warrant may issue for the arrest of the accused .



Affiant: Travis Wood
Badge No. 720
Agency. Holly Springs Police department

Warrant No.CE0130138
Case No.HSI21-10122

Sworn to and subscribed before me, This 18 day of February, 2022 at 10:27:14AM

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J E Drane III", written in a cursive style.

Magistrate: J E Drane III
Title:

ARREST WARRANT

To any Sheriff, Deputy Sheriff, Coroner, Constable, or Marshal of said State,

GREETINGS:

Travis Wood makes oath before me that Robert Allen Vandel did commit the offense (s) set forth in the foregoing affidavit, on the dates, at the times, and in the locations therein stated. You are therefore commanded to arrest Robert Allen Vandel and bring him before me, or some other judicial officer of this state, to be dealt with as the law directs. Herein fail not.

This 18 day of February, 2022 at 10:27:14AM



Magistrate: J E Drane III
Title:

This Criminal Warrant is DISMISSED for the following reason:

- The affiant has requested a dismissal and all costs have been paid.
- The prosecutor has requested dismissal - see attached paperwork.
- Failure of the prosecuting witness to appear for a scheduled hearing after valid service of subpoena.
- After this court heard evidence in a committal hearing it is determined that no probable cause exists.
- Other reason:

This ____ day of _____, 2022

This Criminal Warrant is transferred to the State Court Superior Court of CHEROKEE COUNTY for the following reasons

- This Court heard evidence in a committal hearing and determined that probable cause existed.
- The accused waived a committal/probable cause hearing.
- Administratively transferred without waiving any rights the defendant may have in the Magistrate Court.

This the ____ day of _____, 2022

Magistrate:

Dismissed by Magistrate

Magistrate

Dismissed by Prosecuting Attorney

Warrant No.CE0130138
Police Case No. HSI21-10122

**MAGISTRATE COURT OF CHEROKEE COUNTY
CRIMINAL WARRANT**

THE STATE

VERSUS

Robert Allen Vandell
[REDACTED]
CANTON, GA, 30114

BOND:

CHARGE

SEXUAL BATTERY (minor); SEXUAL BATTERY (minor)

GEORGIA, CHEROKEE COUNTY

I affirm, this date, the Defendant was arrested and placed in the CHEROKEE COUNTY Jail.

This ____ day of _____, 2022
Travis Wood
Arresting Officer.

Initial Appearance Hearing held on

Magistrate: J E Drane III

Officer Name: Travis Wood Address: [REDACTED]

Witnesses for the State : Wood Travis : Holly Springs Police department

Co_Defendant:

MAGISTRATE COURT OF Cherokee COUNTY
STATE OF Georgia

STATE OF Georgia,

Warrant No **CE0130138**

Plaintiff,

Case No: **HSI21-10122**

v.

Robert Allen Vandel

DEFENDANT

EXAMINATION and BOND ORDER

STATE OF Georgia,

Cherokee County

After having fully advised the Defendant of the charges against him, his right to a committal hearing, his right to be represented by an attorney, and such other rights as specified by Rule 26.1 of the Uniform Superior Court Rules of the State of Georgia, it is hereby ORDERED, that the Defendant give bond in the amounts shown below for his appearance before the [check one] Superior State Court of Cherokee County on the _____ day of _____, 20____, at _____.

COUNT	CHARGE	BOND AMOUNT	SUPERIOR COURT SETS BOND
1	SEXUAL BATTERY (minor)	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	SEXUAL BATTERY (minor)	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>

SO ORDERED this _____ day of _____, 20____ at _____ AM/PM.

Judge of the Magistrate Court