



Roosevelt International Middle School  
 3366 Park Blvd San Diego, CA 92103  
 Phone 619.362.3850 - Fax 619.362.3924  
[www.rooseveltmiddle.org](http://www.rooseveltmiddle.org)

Christina Casillas, Ed.D.  
 Principal

TO: Bruno Schonian  
 FROM: Christina Casillas, Principal  
 DATE: June 10, 2019  
 RE: Recommendation for Suspension

On May 1, 2019, a student reported that on April 30, 2019 you engaged in an inappropriate interaction and invaded personal boundaries with her after school. I interviewed you on May 2, 2019 with your SDEA representative, Janie Herndon present to discuss the incident. Based on my investigation, below are the facts:

- According to the student, you propositioned her afterschool on April 30, 2019 on the north side of campus (by Upas Street) and asked: "We should go out sometime for Mexican food or the mall would you like that?"
- She also stated that you told her, "I can't wait until you're 18... 4 years is a long time. And you can do whatever you want. Are you allowed to go out alone or do you always need someone there like an adult?"
- She stated that you offered to meet her by the Plaza Bonita mall. You stated, "We should meet up there. We can stay at the mall and walk around or go somewhere else."
- She also reported that you gave her your phone number to memorize and told her to call you on a pay phone so there would not be any mobile evidence. This student was able to recite most numbers in your phone number. After 24 hours later, she recalled your number as Redacted.  
 Your phone number is Redacted. The student clearly recalls this exchange as you corrected her when she repeated the phone number back. She said you told her, "Yeah it would be a shame if you'd tell someone then I would get fired and jail time and I have two kids and I don't want that to happen."
- At the end of the conversation you told her, "Yeah, I don't know why but I feel more relaxed when I'm around you... You should come visit my class more. I rarely ever get the chance to speak to you."
- Additionally, the student claimed that in the past you have hugged her, complimented her by saying "Your hair is pretty," "You are too pretty to date ugly dudes," and have called her "Mamas" in class. You even said "Look how sweet she is?"
- The student and a witness reported that you have provided her with dating advice and discussed your ex-wife with her.
- The witness stated that you have specifically asked about the whereabouts of the other student.
- A third student also stated that you offered her a ride home after school and talked about wanting to see them in ten years to catch up.

When I interviewed you on May 2, 2019, you confirmed speaking with the student on April 30th after school. When asked about other details about the conversation and previous interactions, you responded with the following statements: "I don't recall. Not clear on that. No. Not sure. I don't know. If I think about it, I will let you know."



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You admitted that you told the student, "Let's go to the mall". When I asked you why you would say, "It was intended for her family. I was talking about celebrating with her family and said 'Let's go to the mall.' You said this was in reference to celebrating her promotion.

You admitted to telling the student that you "felt so relaxed around her" know. After a brief pause, you said, "Yeah, that's when she said she missed me. I was her favorite teacher. I miss all my kids. I might have told her I miss you guys. I compliment her. She is a nice student and comfortable to be around." You denied giving the student your phone number. You also denied offering a student a ride home. When asked about physical contact with students you mentioned that you shook her hand and that "It's possible a fist pump or high five. I don't hug students." When asked if you said, 'Look how sweet she is,' you paused. Then you said, "I could have said that she is a sweet girl. She is very nice. She is always nice. She is gentle and very polite." I asked what you meant about being *gentle*. You explained, "She is not obnoxious or loud. **Redacted** used to bring pastries for the class and bring them from T.J. That's a nice student. What other students bring treats like that?"

When I asked you about how students know about your ex-wife, you said, "If I do remember, I'll let you know. I don't know why she would say that."

I also asked you why you would tell the student her hair was pretty. Your response was, "I compliment boys and girls to help with their self esteem. I tell boys that they look sharp. For example, a student came in with his hood on and he doesn't like his haircut. I tell him it looks great."

I then asked you why the student said you called her 'mamas.' You said that it is possible. "I say moms to other student- just girls. That's part of the Latin American culture, 'Mamas.'

Your conduct as a Classroom Teacher and employee of the San Diego Unified School District violates the following:

- California Education Code 44932 a
  - (1) Immoral conduct
  - (6) Evident unfitness for service
  - (8) Persistent violation of school rules.
- Administrative Procedure 7045: Code of Ethics of the Teaching Profession
  - 2b – Commitment to the Student
  - 3. Protects the health and safety of students
- **Redacted**



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- o April 24, 2015 Summary of Conference
  - On April 15, 2015, Ms. Reyes spoke to you about concerns from two female students who were uncomfortable in your class due to your



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actions and comments. The students reported that you asked if their mom was single, "grabbed their butt," told girls they have "nice boobs;" and had a "sexual stare." These students felt very uncomfortable and scared.

- Additionally on March 27, 2015, another female student claimed that you told her she had nice boobs as you were talking about a shirt stain.
- You were advised to:
  - Maintain a professional tone with students at all times, and to protect yourself by never being alone with female students.
  - Explain to students "we need to stay focused on academics when discussions get personal."

Redacted

Your continued actions have created a negative impact with students and staff in our Roosevelt International Middle School Community. On several occasions, female students have reported to administration that you have made unwanted comments unrelated to instruction that made them uncomfortable. Redacted

In addition to myself, two vice principals have explicitly discussed concerns about your conduct and have directed you to maintain professionalism at all times. Despite these conversations and supports offered, you continue to demonstrate insubordination.

It is for these reasons that I am recommending your suspension without pay for fifteen (15) days due to a pervasive pattern of your immoral conduct that is borderline sexual harassment. Your inappropriate and unwelcome comments you have made towards students Redacted have created an uncomfortable and hostile environment.

The Employee Assistance Program is available to you and can be accessed at (888) 625-4809. I provided you with the EAP brochure during our conference on June 10, 2019.



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You have the right to due process in regard to this matter, and Human Resources Officer Stephanie Kennedy will be in contact with you to schedule a pre-disciplinary meeting. You have the right to union representation at all meetings regarding this matter.

Your signature below acknowledges receipt of this document and does not necessarily indicate your agreement with its content. A copy of this memorandum will be placed in your personnel file after 10 days. You may prepare a response and have that response attached to this document.

Signature: *[Handwritten Signature]* Date: 6/10/2019

Human Resources  
Personnel File