





public hearing on the Petition and make an appropriate recommendation to the State Board of Education as is warranted by the evidence.

On or about November 13, 2013, Kathi Vontz, Clerk of the Commission, filed a Notice of Hearing which was sent to the Petitioner by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, and delivered by hand a copy of the same to the Commissioner's General Counsel. The Notice of Hearing advised that a public hearing on the Petition and Answer would be held on the 7th day of December, 2013, commencing at approximately 9:05 a.m., in the State Board Hearing Room, 6th Floor, Nebraska State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. The Notice further advised that the hearing would be held before a designated hearing committee of the Commission, with Jeffery R. Kirkpatrick serving as legal counsel to advise the Chair in the performance of her duties.

The Petition and Answer came on for hearing at approximately 9:05 a.m. at the above time and place before a Hearing Panel of the Commission consisting of Commission members Susan J. Anglemeyer, Sarah Brown, Susan Johnson, Brian Maher, Mandy Peterson, Joy Schott, Darolyn Seay, Karen Shelton, and Jane Stavem. Commissioner Brown served as Chairperson. The proceedings were reported by Wendy Cutting of General Reporting Services, Lincoln, Nebraska. The Petitioner appeared in person. The Commissioner appeared by his General Counsel, Brian L. Halstead. Exhibits and testimony were received in evidence. Thereafter, the Petitioner and the Commissioner's General Counsel made their closing arguments.

Thereupon, the Commission adjourned and deliberated based on the record before it and makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Recommendation to the State Board of Education:

## II. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Petitioner, previously held a public Nebraska standard administrative certificate number 2008002558, endorsed as Principal PK-8, Elementary Education K-6, and Coaching 7-12, with an expiration date of December 5, 2013.
2. The Petitioner has been gainfully employed during the period of revocation.
3. The Petitioner has met the requirements of Neb. Rev. Stat., §79-1282(Reissue 2008) and Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 21, for the issuance of teaching certificates, all as required by Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-869 (Reissue 2008). The Petitioner understands those requirements and has stated that he will not violate nor fail to comply with any of the same if he is issued a new teaching or administrative certificate.

## III. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Commission has jurisdiction in this case and all proceedings have been in accordance with applicable Constitutional, Statutory, and Regulatory Requirements.

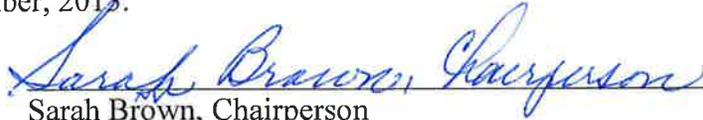
2. The Petitioner has proven by a preponderance of the evidence that he has met all the requirements of Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-806 through 79-815 (Reissue 2008), and Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 21, for the issuance of a Nebraska teaching certificate, all as required by Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-869 (Reissue 2008).

3. The Petitioner has further proven by a preponderance of the evidence that he should be allowed to apply to the State Department of Education for the issuance of a new teaching or administrative certificate.

#### IV. RECOMMENDATION

Therefore, the Commission respectfully recommends, by an 8-0 vote, with one abstention, to the State Board of Education that Matthew Rega has met all of the statutory and regulatory requirements for the issuance of a Nebraska public schools teaching certificate and that he accordingly be allowed to apply for the same before the Commissioner of Education, State of Nebraska.

Dated this 10<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2013.



Sarah Brown, Chairperson  
Hearing Committee  
Nebraska Professional Practices Commission

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Recommendation of the Commission was served upon Petitioner, Matthew Rega, by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid. It was also hand delivered to Brian Halstead, General Counsel for the Commissioner, on this 30<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2013, at the following addresses.

Matthew Rega  
Petitioner  
1391 Ithilien  
Excelsior, MN 55331

Brian L. Halstead  
Attorney for Respondent  
301 Centennial Mall South  
Lincoln, NE 68528

  
Kathi Vontz  
Clerk of the Commission

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMISSION  
STATE OF NEBRASKA

IN THE MATTER OF THE  
REINSTATEMENT OF:

Matthew Kyle Rega  
1391 Ithilien  
Excelsior, MN 55331

Case No. 13-10

TRANSCRIPT

VOLUME I of I  
(Pages 1 through 17)  
EXHIBITS 1-4

Nebraska State Office Building  
301 Centennial Mall South  
Department of Education Board Room  
Sixth Floor  
Lincoln, NE

Convened, pursuant to notice, at 9:02 a.m., on  
December 7, 2013,

BEFORE:

JEFFERY R. KIRKPATRICK, Hearing Officer.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

KAREN SHELTON, Chairperson; SARAH BROWN,  
Presiding; SUSAN ANGLEMYER; SUSAN JOHNSON; BRIAN MAHER;  
DAMON McDONALD; MANDY PETERSON; JOY SCHOTT; DAROLYN SEAY;  
and JANE STAVEM.

OTHERS PRESENT:

KATHI VONTZ, Clerk of the Commission

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A P P E A R A N C E S

For the Commissioner:            Brian L. Halstead, #18077  
  General Counsel  
  Department of Education  
  301 Centennial Mall South  
  Sixth Floor  
  Lincoln, NE 68509

Pro se:                                Matthew Rega  
  1391 Ithilien  
  Excelsior, MN 55331

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1 PROCEEDINGS:

2 (Exhibits 1 through 4 were marked for  
3 identification.)

4 THE HEARING OFFICER: Ladies and gentlemen, I am  
5 Sarah Brown, chairperson of this hearing panel of the  
6 Nebraska Professional Practices Commission. I convene this  
7 hearing at 9:02 a.m. for the purposes of receiving evidence  
8 on a petition filed by Matthew Rega, Petitioner, against  
9 Scott Swisher, Deputy Commissioner of Education, Respondent,  
10 Case No. 13-10.

11 The other members of the hearing committee are  
12 Susan J. Anglemyer, Susan Johnson, Brian Maher, Damon  
13 McDonald, Mandy Peterson, Joy Schott, Darolyn Seay, Karen  
14 Shelton, and Jane Stavem.

15 The Commission's attorney is Jeffery R.  
16 Kirkpatrick. His purpose is to advise the hearing panel  
17 chairperson and the Commission on the performance of our  
18 duties under the Commission's rule and regulations.

19 The court reporter is Wendy Cutting. Her purpose  
20 is to record the testimony of the witnesses and mark the  
21 exhibits.

22 The Clerk of the Commission is Kathi Vontz. Her  
23 purpose is administrative.

24 This case arises from a request by the State Board  
25 of Education that the Commission hear this matter pursuant

1 to Sections 79-859 through 79-871 of the Nebraska statutes  
2 and the rules and regulations thereunder.

3 At this time, I ask the attorneys to enter their  
4 appearance.

5 THE HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Rega, do you just want  
6 to introduce yourself?

7 MR. REGA: Okay. I'm Matthew Rega. I currently  
8 live in Minnetonka, which is in the Minneapolis area in  
9 Minnesota.

10 MR. HALSTEAD: Brian Halstead, 301 Centennial Mall  
11 South, Sixth Floor, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509, on behalf of  
12 the Commissioner of Education.

13 CHAIRPERSON BROWN: At this time, if there are no  
14 objections, I will enter into the record the pleadings,  
15 which are marked as Exhibit 1; the standards of ethics and  
16 competency, which is 92 Nebraska Administrative Code,  
17 Chapter 27, and is marked as Exhibit 2; and the regulations  
18 concerning teacher and administrator certificate  
19 reinstatement, which is 95 Nebraska Administrative Code,  
20 Chapter 2, and is marked as Exhibit 3.

21 Are there any objections?

22 MR. HALSTEAD: I have no objections to those three  
23 exhibits.

24 MR. REGA: I'd also like to submit Exhibit 4.

02.04.24 State Board of Education 25 THE HEARING OFFICER: There'll be a time for that. 10.11

1 MR. REGA: All right.

2 MR. HALSTEAD: Do you have any objections to those  
3 first --

4 MR. REGA: Oh, no.

5 CHAIRPERSON BROWN: Exhibits 1, 2, and 3 are  
6 received.

7 (Exhibits 1 through 3 were received in evidence.  
8 See Index.)

9 At this time, the hearing committee's attorney  
10 will conduct the hearing.

11 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

12 Mr. Rega, do you want to begin with an opening  
13 statement?

14 MR. REGA: I just want to thank everybody for  
15 giving me this opportunity to come to this hearing and share  
16 what I've been doing for the last couple of years with you.

17 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

18 Mr. Halstead.

19 MR. HALSTEAD: I'd waive an opening statement.

20 THE HEARING OFFICER: With that, Mr. Rega, any  
21 further evidence that you'd like to introduce?

22 MR. REGA: Yes, I have Exhibit 4. These are  
23 letters of reference.

24 THE HEARING OFFICER: Is there any objection?

1 4. I've read the letters and they are all character  
2 letters, so I have no objections to the Commission receiving  
3 that.

4 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Halstead.  
5 (Exhibit 4 was received in evidence. See Index.)  
6 Do you have copies for the Commission?

7 MR. REGA: Yes.

8 THE HEARING OFFICER: The Commission has not had  
9 an opportunity to read these. Would you like us to read  
10 these at this time or do you have further evidence you'd  
11 like to offer?

12 MR. REGA: I don't have any further evidence.

13 THE HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Halstead, do you have  
14 any further evidence?

15 MR. HALSTEAD: I would call the petitioner in this  
16 matter as a witness.

17 THE HEARING OFFICER: Witness will be sworn in.

18 THE REPORTER: Will you raise your right hand,  
19 please? Do you solemnly swear or affirm the testimony  
20 you're about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and  
21 nothing but the truth?

22 MR. REGA: Yes.

23 MATTHEW REGA

24 Called as a witness on behalf of the Respondent,

25 02.04.74 State Board of Education having been first duly sworn, testified as follows: R7.9-13

1 THE HEARING OFFICER: You may proceed, Mr.  
2 Halstead.

3 DIRECT EXAMINATION

4 BY MR. HALSTEAD:

5 Q Mr. Rega, you currently live in Minnetonka,  
6 Minnesota, correct?

7 A Yes.

8 Q And how long have you lived there?

9 A About a year and a half.

10 Q And what are you currently doing while living in  
11 Minnesota?

12 A I work for the Minnetonka Public Schools. I work  
13 as a Director of Assessment.

14 Q And help me out. What does the position as  
15 Director of Assessment for that school district involve?

16 A I serve the entire district working at the  
17 district office, and some of the things that I do is I make  
18 sure that I coordinate all the testing for the district,  
19 provide research, evaluation of programs, and serve teachers  
20 and administrators, help them with data analysis and things  
21 that help school improvement.

22 Q When did you start working for the Minnetonka  
23 Public Schools?

24 A July 2012.

1           A     I worked for West Corporation after Millard Public  
2 Schools, worked as a workforce management analyst from  
3 September of 2011 through June of 2012.

4           Q     And what did those duties involve for the West  
5 Corporation?

6           A     I provided analysis of the workforce throughout  
7 the United States, make sure that staffing of call centers  
8 was up to par, and provide trend analysis for the  
9 corporation.

10          Q     And did you leave the West Corporation on good  
11 terms?

12          A     Yes.

13          Q     Is the reason you left there because you got a  
14 position with the schools in Minnesota?

15          A     Yes.

16          Q     Could you briefly remind the Commission members  
17 what it is that you did in order to get your Nebraska  
18 administrative certificate revoked?

19          A     On May 6, 2011, I took \$100 for personal use and  
20 then when I was confronted about it, I didn't tell the  
21 truth, and ultimately that's the reason why it was revoked  
22 for the year.

23          Q     What did you learn from this whole experience?

24          A     So many things. One, I know what's right and

25          Q     What was wrong to do, and clearly, I made a really poor choice. I  
02.04.14 State Board of Education 17.9.15

1 learned that there are a lot of things that are more  
2 important than myself, like my family. And I spent a great  
3 deal of time figuring those things out, relying on some  
4 friends for some support, and also learned that I love being  
5 in education. And I had to do some things outside of  
6 education to get back to where I ultimately wanted to be and  
7 what would be good for my family. And I learned that  
8 really, that that was the biggest thing, is putting my  
9 family first with the decisions I make. And I really feel  
10 like that Minnetonka Schools just gave me this wonderful  
11 opportunity that I will never take for granted like I did  
12 when I made that mistake.

13 Q Are the Minnetonka Public Schools aware that your  
14 Nebraska certificate was revoked?

15 A Yes. I shared all of that information when I  
16 applied for the position.

17 Q Does the position with the Minnetonka Public  
18 Schools require you hold a Minnesota certificate of any  
19 type?

20 A No, they required five years of administrative  
21 experience, but no a Minnesota certificate.

22 Q So, currently, you're not certified to be a  
23 teacher in the state of Minnesota.

24 A No.

1 the State of Minnesota for a teaching and administrative  
2 certificate?

3 A Yes.

4 Q But you need to get reinstated in Nebraska first.

5 A Actually, not necessarily. I spoke with them, and  
6 they said, "It won't hurt. We don't know if it will help."  
7 There really was not an answer. But they thought, you know,  
8 it might not be a bad idea to try to do that. And I  
9 thought, there's other reasons why I wanted to do that as  
10 well.

11 Q Would you care to share the other reasons why you  
12 think it's important to get reinstated in Nebraska?

13 A I thought about -- yes, well, leaving on the terms  
14 that I left on was rough. And I didn't -- I feel like  
15 there's some things that are left kind of open. And I  
16 wanted to be able to get my certificate back, because it's  
17 something that's really important to me. And I think, down  
18 the road, I mean, my kids were pretty young. They don't  
19 really understand all of this, but at some point, they will.  
20 And I think that will be a lesson down the road that I will  
21 need to share with them about what happened and  
22 how -- although this wasn't a requirement. It was just the  
23 right thing to do to get my certificate back, and they  
24 just -- I think that was really the biggest reason.

25 And then, the other part was really for myself,  
02.04.14 State Board of Education R7.9-17

1 because, you know, every day I think about those things, and  
2 they kind of come in and out of my memory, and I think about  
3 those things that happened and what I should have done  
4 differently. And I think this would be helpful in getting  
5 past some of those things, as well.

6 Q Had any criminal charges since that time?

7 A No.

8 Q And the offense at Millard didn't result in any  
9 criminal charges against you at that time.

10 A No.

11 MR. HALSTEAD: I don't have anything more to ask  
12 of Mr. Rega.

13 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Halstead.

14 Do members of the Commission, Commission members  
15 on my right have any questions for Mr. Rega?

16 (No response.)

17 Commission members on my left?

18 (No response.)

19 Any further evidence you'd like to offer, Mr.  
20 Halstead?

21 MR. HALSTEAD: No, I have nothing further.

22 THE HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Rega, any further  
23 evidence?

24 MR. REGA: No, thank you.

1 now for you to make a statement to the Commission about why  
2 your certificate should be reinstated.

3 MR. REGA: Back when my certificate was revoked,  
4 you know, there was a lot of things that I did that brought  
5 my character into question. And I heard those things when I  
6 was here for that meeting at the time. And I thought about  
7 the things that I need to do to be able to have my  
8 certificate reinstated. And it felt like I can do those  
9 things. And it took a long time, but I think my actions  
10 over the last two years have proven that. I think my, not  
11 only my references, but even my direct supervisor, whom you  
12 have a letter from, believes in me. He's very aware of what  
13 happened. He had the exact language of what happened. And  
14 I've proven to them that I have the integrity that it takes  
15 to be an administrator in Minnesota. And I really believe  
16 that I have -- that integrity should allow me to be  
17 reinstated after the two years. I realize my certificate  
18 was revoked for one year, but I really feel like I've shown  
19 through my actions, what I've done for my family and what  
20 I've done professionally, that I'm the type of person that I  
21 hope would be welcome back into the profession here if I so  
22 chose to do that as well.

23 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Rega.

24 Does that prompt any questions from the

1 (No response.)

2 Mr. Halstead, would you like to close?

3 MR. HALSTEAD: I don't have anything further to  
4 say. Obviously, you're all aware of why he got his  
5 certificate revoked. He certainly has spent his one-year  
6 revocation period without further issues. He's obviously  
7 been employed by a school in Minnesota who apparently is  
8 well aware of what he did in Nebraska and was willing to  
9 give him a chance. And in that regard, it is, maybe from a  
10 prosecutor's perspective, somewhat heartening to see that  
11 the process that Nebraska has in place actually does work.  
12 There is a reason why we do all of this. It's not merely  
13 just going through formalities. There is a purpose, not  
14 only for the individual, but for the entire profession and  
15 for the public at large. So, with that, we'd just submit  
16 the case based on the facts and the evidence that you have.

17 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Halstead.

18 The chairman will now close the hearing.

19 CHAIRPERSON BROWN: The hearing committee will  
20 now adjourn and will consider the evidence. The hearing  
21 committee's decision will be reduced to writing. A copy of  
22 the hearing committee's findings, conclusions, and decision  
23 will be furnished to the parties. If the decision includes  
24 a recommendation to allow the petitioner to apply for a new

1 will be presented to the State Board of Education.

2 I declare this hearing adjourned at 9:15.

3 (Whereupon, the hearing was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.  
4 to be reconvened after executive session and deliberation of  
5 the evidence.)

6 (Back on the record 1:38 p.m.)

7 CHAIRPERSON SHELTON: Is there a motion regarding  
8 the Commission's recommendation on Case No. 13-10?

9 COMMISSIONER MAHER: I move that the Nebraska  
10 Professional Practices Commission adopts the findings of  
11 facts and conclusions of law and recommend to the State  
12 Board of Education that Matthew Rega be allowed to apply for  
13 the issuance of a public school teaching certificate.

14 CHAIRPERSON SHELTON: A second?

15 COMMISSIONER SCHOTT: I second.

16 CHAIRPERSON SHELTON: Is there discussion? If  
17 none, it has been moved and seconded to accept the findings  
18 of fact and the conclusions of law and recommend -- what was  
19 that, again? I didn't write it down.

20 COMMISSIONER MAHER: That Matthew Rega be allowed  
21 to apply for the issuance.

22 COMMISSIONER SCHOTT: Do we have to put anything  
23 about based on the findings of whether the --

24 COMMISSIONER SHELTON: No. Is there any

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(No response.)

Will the clerk please call the roll?

THE CLERK: Anglemyer.

COMMISSIONER ANGLEMYER: Abstain.

THE CLERK: Brown.

COMMISSIONER BROWN: Yes.

THE CLERK: Johnson.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Yes.

THE CLERK: Maher.

COMMISSIONER MAHER: Yes.

THE CLERK: McDonald. Peterson.

COMMISSIONER PETERSON: Yes.

THE CLERK: Schott.

COMMISSIONER SCHOTT: Yes.

THE CLERK: Seay.

COMMISSIONER SEAY: Yes.

THE CLERK: Shelton.

COMMISSIONER SHELTON: Yes.

THE CLERK: Stavem.

COMMISSIONER STAVEM: Yes.

(Whereupon, at 1:43 p.m. on December 7, 2013, the  
proceedings were concluded.)

- - -

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMISSION  
STATE OF NEBRASKA

Matthew Kyle Rega  
1391 Ithilien  
Excelsior, MN 55331

Petitioner,

vs.

Scott Swisher, Ed.D.  
Deputy Commissioner of Education  
301 Centennial Mall South – 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
P.O. Box 94933  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4933,

Respondent.

NPPC Case No. 13-10

NOTICE OF HEARING

Petitioner and Respondent are hereby notified that a hearing on the Petition filed by Matthew Kyle Rega on October 21, 2013, will be held in the Hearing Room, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Nebraska State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska, on Saturday, the 7th day of December, 2013, commencing at 9:05 a.m.

Commission members of the Nebraska Professional Practices Commission will hear and consider the case.

Jefferey R. Kirkpatrick, 7800 Stevens Ridge Road, Lincoln, NE 68516, has been appointed legal counsel to advise the chairperson in the performance of the chairperson's duties.

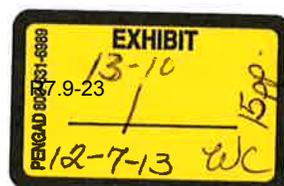
Dated

November 13, 2013

Sarah Brown, Chairperson, Hearing Panel  
NEBRASKA PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMISSION



By Kathi Vontz, Clerk of the Commission  
NEBRASKA PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMISSION



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above Notice dated November 13, 2013, for Case Number 13-10, was mailed to Matthew Rega, Petitioner, by U.S. Mail postage prepaid, and delivered by hand to Brian Halstead, Attorney for the Respondent, on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2013, at the following addresses.

Matthew Rega  
Petitioner  
1391 Ithilien  
Excelsior, MN 55331

Brian Halstead  
Attorney for Respondent  
301 Centennial Mall South  
Lincoln, NE 68509

  
Kathi Vontz  
Clerk of the Commission

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMISSION  
STATE OF NEBRASKA

IN THE MATTER OF THE  
REINSTATEMENT OF:

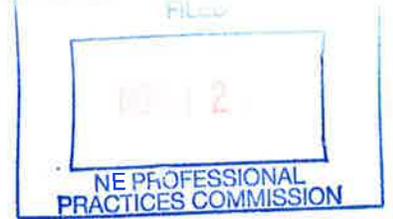
Matthew Kyle Rega  
1391 Ithilien  
Excelsior, MN 55331

Applicant.

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PPC Case No. 13-10

ANSWER



COMES NOW the Respondent, Scott Swisher, Deputy Commissioner of Education, and  
for his Answer to the Applicant's Petition for Reinstatement alleges as follows:

1. That on November 9, 2011, the State Board of Education revoked the Applicant's  
Nebraska public standard administrative certificate for a period of one (1) year. A  
copy of the Final Order of the State Board of Education is attached and marked as  
exhibit "A", and by this reference incorporated herein.

WHEREFORE, the Respondent requests that the Commission hold a hearing in this matter,  
and make a recommendation to the State Board of Education as may be warranted by the evidence  
at such hearing.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Swisher, Ed.D.  
Deputy Commissioner of Education

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the above Answer was mailed to the parties of record, postage  
prepaid, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of November 2013.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian L. Halstead #18077  
General Counsel  
Nebraska Department of Education

BEFORE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
STATE OF NEBRASKA

Roger D. Breed, Ed.D. )  
Commissioner of Education )  
301 Centennial Mall South )  
P.O. Box 94933 )  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4933, )  
  
Petitioner, )  
  
v, )  
  
Matthew Rega )  
1412 N. 161 Street )  
Omaha, NE 68118, )  
  
Respondent. )

NDE Case No. 11-15

**FINAL ORDER**

This matter came before the State Board of Education ("State Board"), Lincoln, Nebraska, on November 9, 2011, upon the recommendation of the Nebraska Professional Practices Commission ("NPPC") that the public school certificate of the Respondent, Matthew Rega, be revoked for a period of one (1) year. The parties were notified of the State Board's consideration in this matter. Appearing before the State Board was Brian L. Halstead, Assistant Commissioner/General Counsel, who presented a statement on behalf of the Commissioner of Education, and Kathi Vontz, Clerk of the NPPC. The Respondent appeared with counsel, Patrick Sodoro.

The record of the NPPC proceeding, containing its "Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Recommendation of the Commission," the Settlement Agreement for Revocation of Certificate executed by the parties hereto, the pleadings, exhibits, and a written transcript of the NPPC hearing, was received by the State Board into evidence as "Exhibit 1." The Notice of Disposition and the certified mail receipt



were received into evidence as "Exhibit 2." Upon its independent review of the entire record, the State Board finds, concludes and order as follows:

1. The State Board has jurisdiction in this case pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 79-866 (2008);
2. The Petitioner is Roger D. Breed, Ed.D., Commissioner of Education, 301 Centennial Mall South, P.O. Box 94933, Lincoln, NE 68509;
3. The Respondent is Matthew Rega, 1412 N. 161<sup>st</sup> Street, Omaha, NE 68118;
4. The Respondent holds a public Nebraska standard administrative certificate number 2008002558, endorsed as Principal PK-8, Elementary Education K-6, and Coaching 7-12, with an expiration date of December 5, 2013;
5. The Respondent was employed by the Millard Public Schools beginning with the 1998-99 school year and was a principal at Montclair Elementary School until he submitted his resignation on May 12, 2011, which was accepted by the Millard School Board on June 6, 2011;
6. On or about May 6, 2011, the Respondent took for personal use approximately \$100 from funds donated by staff for the purposes of assisting other staff with personal needs;
7. On or about May 9, 2011, the Respondent twice denied taking the funds when confronted by officials with the school district, and later admitted on May 10 to taking the funds and made full restitution to the school district;
8. The Respondent has violated Section 79-866(2) (2008), which states in pertinent part: "The board may, for just cause, revoke or suspend any teacher's or

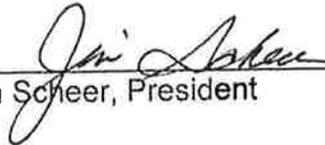
administrator's certificate. Violation of the standards established pursuant to this section, commission of an immoral act, or conviction of a felony under the laws of this state shall constitute just cause for the revocation or suspension of a teacher's or administrator's certificate by the board"; Title 92, *Nebraska Administrative Code*, Chapter 27, Section 004.02D (effective date: November 12, 2003) ("the educator. . . shall not make any fraudulent statement or fail to disclose a material fact for which the educator is responsible"); Section 004.02H (same effective date) ("the educator. . . shall not engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation in the performance of professional duties"); Section 004.04B (same effective date) ("the educator . . . shall not use institutional privileges for private gain or to promote political candidates, political issues, or partisan political activities"); and Section 004.04E (same effective date) ("the educator . . . shall not commit any act of moral turpitude or any felony under the laws of the United States or any state or territory, and shall not have a misdemeanor conviction involving abuse, neglect, or sexual misconduct as defined in Sections 003.12 through 003.14 of 92 NAC 21");

9. By a preponderance of the evidence, just cause exists pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 79-866(2) (2008) to revoke the Respondent's certificate for a period of one (1) year; and

10. The public Nebraska standard administrative certificate number 2008002558, endorsed as Principal PK-8, Elementary Education K-6, and Coaching 7-12, with an expiration date of December 5, 2013, shall be revoked for a period of one (1) year from and after the date of this order.

Dated this 9th day of November, 2011.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

BY:   
Jim Scheer, President

The vote by the State Board of Education to approve the Final Order in Case No. 11-15, on November 9, 2011, was 6 in favor, \_\_\_\_\_ against, \_\_\_\_\_ abstaining, and 2 absent. Individual State Board members voted as follows:

IN FAVOR: R. EVNEN, M. QUANDAH, J. SCHEER, L. CRONK, M. O'HOLLERAN, J. STELER

\_\_\_\_\_

AGAINST: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

ABSTAINING: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT: P. TIMM, R. VALDEZ

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing Final Order was served upon counsel for the Respondent, Joseph Daly, Sodoro Daly & Sodoro, P.C., 200 Century Professional Plaza, 7000 Spring Street, Omaha, NE 68106, via United States mail; Kathi Vontz, NPPC Clerk, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lower Level, Lincoln, NE 68509, via interoffice mail; and Brian L. Halstead, Assistant Commissioner/General Counsel, Nebraska Department of Education, 301 Centennial Mall South, Sixth Floor, Lincoln, NE 68509, via interoffice mail, all on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2011.

Brenda L. Wid

49-688-30

TITLE 95  
CHAPTER 02



Petition for Reinstatement

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMISSION  
STATE OF NEBRASKA

IN THE MATTER OF THE )  
REINSTATEMENT OF: )  
)  
)  
)  
Matthew Kyle Rega )  
)  
1391 Ithilien )  
Excelsior, MN 55331 )

Case No. 13-10  
PETITION FOR REINSTATEMENT

The undersigned Petitioner for reinstatement of a revoked Nebraska teaching, administrative and supervisory, or special services counseling public school certificate alleges:

1. Standard Administrative Certificate 2008002558, Elementary K-6 (K-8 Self-Contained Classroom, Principal PK-8, Coaching 7-12, expired 12/05/2013 ss#: 130-54-7818
2. The Respondent has violated Section 79-866(2) (2008), which states in pertinent part: "The board may, for just cause, revoke or suspend any teacher's or administrator's certificate. Violation of the standards established pursuant to this section, commission of an immoral act, or conviction of a felony under the laws of this state shall constitute just cause for the revocation or suspension of a teacher's or administrator's certificate by the board"; Title 92, *Nebraska Administrative Code*, Chapter 27, Section 004.02D (effective date: November 12, 2003) ("the educator...shall not make any fraudulent statement or fail to disclose a material fact for which the educator is responsible"); Section 004.02H (same effective date) ("the educator...shall not engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation in the performance of professional duties"); Section 004.04B (same effective date) ("the educator...shall not use institutional privileges for private gain or to promote political candidates, political issues, or partisan political activities"); and Section 004.04E (same effective date) ("the educator...shall not commit any act of moral turpitude or any felony under the laws of the United States or any state or territory, and shall not have a misdemeanor conviction involving abuse, neglect, or sexual misconduct as defined in Sections 0003.12 through 003.14 of 92 NAC21").

By preponderance of the evidence, just cause exists pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 79-866(2) (2008) to revoke the Respondent's certificate for a period of one (1) year.

The public Nebraska standard administrative certificate number 2008002558, endorsed as Principal PK-8, Elementary Education K-6, and Coaching 7-12, with an expiration date of December 5, 2013, shall be revoked for a period of one (1) year from and after the date of this order. Dated this 9<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2011.

3. Jill West - West Corporation, 11808 Miracle Hills Drive, Omaha, NE 68154, 402-965-7921, 9/6/2011 – 6/27/2012

Eric Schneider - Minnetonka Public Schools, 5621 County Road 101, Minnetonka, MN 55345, 952-401-5010, 7/2/2012 – present

4. Eric Schneider, 6104 Crescent Drive, Edina, MN 55436, 952-401-5010  
Anne Harley, 11820 South 37<sup>th</sup> Street, Bellevue, NE, 68123, 402-898-0479  
Andy DeFreece, 5606 South 147<sup>th</sup> Street, Omaha, NE 68137, 402-504-0636  
Kraig Lofquist, ESU #9, PO Box 2047, 1117 E. South Street, Hastings, NE 68901, 402-953-8456  
Terry Houlton, 6565 South 136<sup>th</sup> Street, Omaha, NE 68137, 402-504-0609
5. Petitioner has fully complied with the Order of Revocation, that he or she will not in the future engage in any practice which is listed in the statutes as grounds for revocation or suspension of a certificate, and that he or she is familiar with The criteria of professional practices adopted pursuant to 79-868.

Applicant affirms the statements in this Petition are true, correct, and complete to the best of his or her knowledge and belief.

Dated this 18<sup>th</sup> Day of October, 2013.



(Signature of Petitioner)

Matthew Kyle Rega, 1391 Ithilien, Excelsior, MN 55331, 952-237-9689

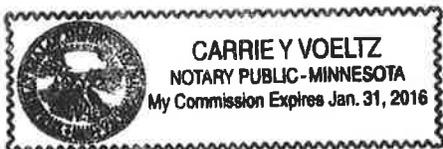
VERIFICATION

State of Nebraska )  
                                  )  
County of Lancaster)

I, Matthew Kyle Rega, being first duly sworn under oath, disposes and says that I am the Petitioner named in the foregoing Petition, that I have read it, know the contents therein, and that the facts therein contained are accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

*Matthew Kyle Rega*  
(Signature of Petitioner)

Subscribed and sworn before me this 18<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2013.



*Carrie Y. Voeltz*  
Notary Public

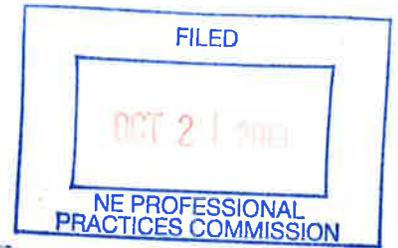
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of the foregoing Petition was served upon the Commissioner of Education, by certified mail, return receipt requested at the following address;  
301 Centennial Mall South, P.O. Box 94987, Lincoln, NE 68509-4987

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Respondent)

October 2013



To whom it may concern:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of support for Mr. Matthew Rega, I have worked with Matt in several different capacities over the past eight years and in every instance I have found him to be an outstanding person and professional.

As a principal supervisor I first got to know Matt when he was a third grade teacher at Wheeler Elementary in Millard Public Schools. At the time I was the Principal and Matt was already known in our school district as an outstanding teacher and aspiring leader. Therefore, when I had an opportunity to hire him it was an easy decision. I was not disappointed. Matt was a dedicated teacher, collaborative co-worker and thorough professional. He was knowledgeable about content, maintained great classroom management, and was continuously implementing best practices within his classroom. I knew that if we were learning about a concept in professional development or if we had a school improvement initiative – Matt would be implementing those things in his classroom. His co-workers viewed him as a contributor, easy to get along with, involved, and someone who contributed to harmony in the workplace. More importantly his rapport with students and ability to get every student to achieve their potential was outstanding!

Matt quickly moved into a building leadership role at a different school, first working as an Assistant Principal and then as the Principal. As a Principal colleague, I found that the characteristics and dispositions that helped Matt establish himself as an outstanding teacher also made him a very successful Principal. As a peer you could always count on Matt to listen, reflect and utilize common sense when making decisions. Matt blended his strategic nature with a very logical approach as he approached his leadership role. His opinion was one that I respected and sought out.

I look forward to hearing from you in regards to Matt Rega. I can be reached at 402-502-0636 or [adefreec@mpsomaha.org](mailto:adefreec@mpsomaha.org).

Sincerely,

Andy DeFreece  
Director of Elementary Education  
Millard Public Schools

October 2013



To whom it may concern:

I think highly of Matthew Rega, and therefore it is my pleasure to write a letter of recommendation on his behalf.

I have known Matt for over ten years. We actually met while we were both getting our Master's in Educational Administration. From my initial encounters with Matt he struck me as a bright, logical and hard working person. He was a superior student and someone that others desired to work with.

After we graduated I initially moved on to work as a Special Education Coordinator while Matt moved into a building leadership role. In this position I supported and collaborated with Matt related to Special Education programming in his building. I found him to be a good listener and someone that used plenty of common sense when making decisions. Matt was running a building with several different programs including a general education program, Montessori and preschool. Matt related well to each of these groups and kept what was in the best interest of the students as the focus of his decisions.

As I moved to a building as a principal it was great to become one of Matt's peers. Matt quickly contacted me offering everything from his back to school handbook to his safety plan. Over the years as situations have occurred we have often called each other to seek advice. We have also had several strong collaborative discussions about different initiatives. Matt is very creative and openly shares his thoughts.

When we were getting our Master's in Educational Administration many of our professors talked about leaders needing specific knowledge, skills and disposition. Over the years I have always strongly correlated these characteristics to my observations and interactions with Matt. Because of his knowledge, skills and disposition I can whole heartedly recommend him. I look forward to hearing from you in regards to Matthew Rega. I can be reach at 402-715-8330 (work), 402-504-0609 (cell) or thoulton@mpsomaha.org.

Sincerely,

Terry Houlton  
Director Special Education  
Millard Public Schools

October, 2013



Dear Colleagues,

It is with pleasure that I write on behalf of Mr. Matt Rega. I have worked closely with Mr. Rega for several years and have learned what a valuable asset he is to our school system. I believe he would be an excellent candidate for re-certification. Mr. Rega personifies excellence in education. He is well organized, has superior technology skills, demonstrates excellent communication abilities and has a positive attitude that is second to none. He is respected by staff members, parents and students not to mention his administrative peers.

I believe that Mr. Rega has a unique gift that allows him to foster growth with the students he serves. I have seen this not only with the high achieving students, but those that need additional help and guidance. When he was with Millard, he helped develop the high achieving culture that Millard is well known for today. It is also worth noting that Mr. Rega has an above average intellect which allows him to grasp the numerous issues that regularly challenge our schools.

In my position, I often times see our administrators in the time of severe stress and challenge. It is during these times that one's true character and leadership ability always shows. I can report during these times, Mr. Rega has always shined. It is without reservation that I highly support him.

Most Sincerely,

Kraig J. Lofquist, Ed. D.  
Director of Educational Service Unit #9

**NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF EDUCATION**

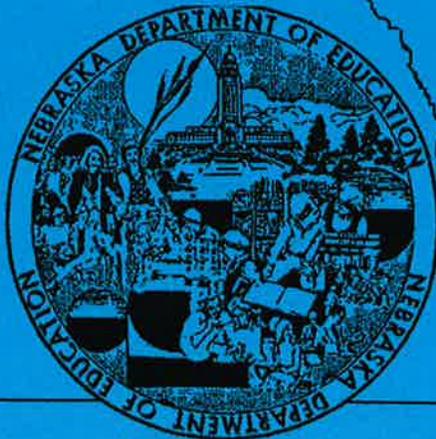
# **RULE 27**

**REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS FOR  
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES CRITERIA**

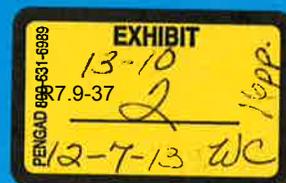
**TITLE 92, NEBRASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE,  
CHAPTER 27**

**EFFECTIVE DATE  
November 12, 2003  
(REVISED)**

**State of Nebraska  
Department of Education  
301 Centennial Mall South  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509  
Douglas D. Christensen, Ph.D.  
Commissioner**



02.04.14 State Board of Education



# NEBRASKA PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

TITLE 95, NEBRASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE,  
CHAPTER 2

REGULATIONS CONCERNING TEACHER AND  
ADMINISTRATOR CERTIFICATE REINSTATEMENT



Effective Date  
October 30, 1993





**MINNETONKA  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Minnetonka Public Schools  
5621 County Road 101  
Minnetonka, MN 55345  
952-401-5000  
www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us

November, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

It is an honor and a privilege to write this letter requesting that the State of Nebraska recertify Matt Rega to work as a school administrator. Although I did not know Mr. Rega while he was employed in Millard Public Schools, I have worked closely with him as his direct supervisor for the past year and a half, and I have no doubt about his integrity, his ability, or his dedication to colleagues, students and teachers.

During Mr. Rega's tenure as the Director of Assessment for Minnetonka Public Schools, he has performed beyond expectations, setting a tone of respect and customer service that had not previously existed in his office. When Mr. Rega accepted the position in Spring 2012, he was aware of the breakdown in trust that had occurred in the Office of Assessment prior to his arrival. His natural instincts in the area of listening to others and his ability to demonstrate patience and compassion for staff as they struggled with the complexities of assessments and achievement data all have resulted in a new level of respect and appreciation for the Office of Assessment in Minnetonka. The turnaround has been nothing short of amazing, and Mr. Rega has effectively rebuilt a climate of trust and respect.

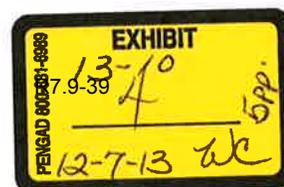
Minnetonka is a very high-performing school district, and expectations are high for all staff, but perhaps even higher for the Director of Assessment based on the Superintendent's emphasis on data-driven decision making. On many occasions, I have observed Mr. Rega working from early in the morning until very late in the evening striving to meet ambitious deadlines for data analysis set by the Superintendent. Mr. Rega has shown fortitude in meeting the goals set by the Superintendent, and he has earned accolades from the School Board for his ability to explain student achievement data in ways that are easily understood. Both of these accomplishments are clear evidence of Mr. Rega's professional abilities and are a testament to his value to the field of education.

Finally, I have observed Mr. Rega as he has worked with the Teaching and Learning Team in Minnetonka's district office, and it is clear to me that Mr. Rega is a very valuable team member who brings a positive energy and collegial spirit to his immediate team. Mr. Rega's ability to build friendships and his genuine display of humor and kindness to others is precisely the kind of person who brings real and lasting value to collaborative work. Mr. Rega has developed trusting relationships with his immediate team members, and this trust has extended to site principals and teachers across the district. In a short amount of time, Mr. Rega has built a strong network of support based on trust and respect.

As a school administrator for the past 15 years, I have a deep respect for the rules that govern our professional practice. Typically, I would not consider a candidate for a high-ranking position if there were evidence of past wrong-doing. Prior to interviewing Mr. Rega for his current position, I spent a great deal of time on the telephone talking with many of his former colleagues in Millard. I contacted those whom Mr. Rega had listed as references, but I also called administrators who had not been listed. After a thorough review, I decided to invite Mr. Rega for an interview. From the beginning of my relationship with Mr. Rega, he has been forthcoming about the events that led to his termination in Millard and he has done everything that has been expected of him to rebuild his life and to demonstrate to all, including his wife and two sons that he has learned from his mistake. I hope you share my belief that Mr. Rega has learned an important lesson and that he has earned the opportunity to rejoin our profession in good standing by moving to recertify him based on the request before you today. I would welcome the opportunity to speak with you directly if there are any further questions regarding Mr. Rega's request. As his direct supervisor in Minnetonka Public Schools I give him my full support and my highest recommendation.

Eric Schneider  
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction  
02/04/14 State Board of Education  
Minnetonka Public Schools

INSPIRING IN EVERYONE A PASSION TO EXCEL





## Patriot Elementary

1701 Hardwood Drive, Papillion, NE 68046  
402-898-0405      [www.paplv.org/patriot](http://www.paplv.org/patriot)

**Principal:** Dr. Anne Harley

**Assistant Principal:** Mikaela Vobejda

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter as a recommendation for Matt Rega. Matt and I worked together as administrators in the Millard Public Schools in 2008-2009, as well as colleagues in the University of Nebraska-Omaha doctoral program. During that time, I learned a lot from Matt in a professional sense as well as in the academia realm.

Matt was able to network throughout the Omaha community via his connections through UNO and Nebraska Council of School Administrators. Matt was a “go-to” for expertise in Service Learning, 40 Developmental Assets, and Montessori. Matt was always willing to share his knowledge and collaborate with others in order to make all elementary schools more effective.

Matt played key roles in designing and facilitating action plans in order for district strategic plans to be effectively implemented. His work in curriculum research and RtI was integral in moving Millard forward in helping to meet students’ individual needs. Matt was masterful in balancing the diverse needs of a Montessori/traditional elementary building. Matt’s leadership put Montclair Elementary in the spotlight time and time again.

Matt is a reflective practitioner, always thoughtful about critical decisions and their impact on the learning environment and professional climate. He is giving with his time to ensure transitions are carefully communicated and understood. Matt is extremely approachable, as his leadership style is enhanced by his sense of humor. Matt had to make some tremendously difficult decisions while serving as a principal; he demonstrated a unique ability to maintain clear focus while ensuring those involved were listened to and felt well taken care of.

Matt is a natural teacher, an ardent leader, and a committed learner. Matt would be an asset to any district. I have been honored to work with Matt as a colleague, friend, and fellow graduate student. Please feel free to contact me if you require further information.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Anne J. Harley, Ed.D.  
Patriot Elementary, Principal  
Papillion-La Vista Public School  
[aharley@paplv.org](mailto:aharley@paplv.org)

October, 2013

Dear Colleagues,

It is with pleasure that I write on behalf of Mr. Matt Rega. I have worked closely with Mr. Rega for several years and have learned what a valuable asset he is to our school system. I believe he would be an excellent candidate for re-certification. Mr. Rega personifies excellence in education. He is well organized, has superior technology skills, demonstrates excellent communication abilities and has a positive attitude that is second to none. He is respected by staff members, parents and students not to mention his administrative peers.

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October 2013

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October 2013

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Director of Elementary Education  
Millard Public Schools