

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

1. The State Board has jurisdiction in this case pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-866(2) (2014);

2. The Petitioner is Deborah A. Frison, Ed.D., Deputy Commissioner of Education, 500 S. 84th Street, 2nd Floor, P.O. Box 94933, Lincoln, NE 68509.

3. The Respondent is Trudy Schnell, 250679 CR C, Scottsbluff, NE 69361;

4. The Respondent holds a public Nebraska Standard teaching certificate number 2018011953, endorsed in Elementary Education K-6, Special Education Generalist K-12, and School Librarian K-12, with an expiration date of August 31, 2023;

5. The Respondent was employed as teacher by the Scottsbluff Public Schools beginning with the 2006-2007 school year until her resignation was accepted by the Scottsbluff School Board on October 10, 2022;

6. During the 2021-2022 school year, while the Respondent was employed by Scottsbluff Public Schools, the Respondent admitted to a juvenile court fault petition in the Scotts Bluff County Court regarding an unkempt home with minor children after a child abuse/ neglect investigation took place. The investigation revealed that the Respondent engaged in a physical altercation with a minor child in her home on multiple occasions. The home was described as uninhabitable due to an extreme amount of animal feces. Felony Child Assault charges were dismissed due to the mental health of the minor. As a result of her actions, Respondent was placed on the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Child Abuse and Neglect Registry. Respondent failed to report to

Scottsbluff Public Schools that she had been placed on the registry in violation of school policy;


7. The Respondent has violated Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-866(2) (2014), which states, in 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”; Section 004.04E (effective date: November 12, 2003) (“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”); Section 005.02B2 (same effective date) (“Each teacher . . . shall: Adhere to and enforce written and dated administrative policy of the school which has been communicated to the teacher or special services provider”); and Section 005.06D (same effective date) (“The educator shall: Develop and maintain positive standards of conduct”);

8. By a preponderance of the evidence, just cause exists pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-866(2) (2014) to permanently revoke the Respondent’s certificate; and

9. The public Nebraska Standard teaching certificate of Trudy Schnell, number 2018011953, endorsed in Elementary Education K-6, Special Education Generalist K-12, and School Librarian K-12, with an expiration date of August 31, 2023, shall be permanently revoked from and after the date of this order.

Dated this 29th day of September, 2023.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

BY: 
Patti Gubbels, President

The vote by the State Board of Education to approve the Final Order in Case No. 23-28, on September 27, 2023, was 6 in favor, against, abstaining, and 2 absent. Individual State Board members voted as follows:

IN FAVOR: K. Penner, S. Jones, L. Fricke, D. Neary, P. Gubbels, P. Koch Johns

AGAINST: _____

ABSTAINING: _____

ABSENT: J. Morrison, E. Tegtmeier

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing Final Order was served upon the Respondent, Trudy Schnell, 250679 CR C, Scottsbluff, NE 69361, by regular U.S. Mail; Kelly Muthersbaugh, NPPC Clerk, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lower Level, Lincoln, NE 68509, by interoffice mail; and Tamra L. Walz, General Counsel, Nebraska Department of Education, 500 S. 84th Street, 2nd Floor, Lincoln, NE 68510-2611, by interoffice mail, all on this 29 day of September, 2023.



Sara B. Sygel

49-3345-30