

**DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE OF THE  
ONTARIO COLLEGE OF TEACHERS**

BETWEEN:

**ONTARIO COLLEGE OF TEACHERS**

**and**

**DENNIS MAURO BUONAFEDE**

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

**THE INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE OF THE ONTARIO COLLEGE OF TEACHERS**, pursuant to section 26, subsection (5) of the *Ontario College of Teachers Act, 1996* (the "*Act*"), Statutes of Ontario, 1996, chapter 12, has directed that the matter hereinafter described regarding the conduct or actions of Dennis Mauro Buonafede, Certificate No. 447269, be referred to the Discipline Committee of the Ontario College of Teachers.

**IT IS ALLEGED** that Dennis Mauro Buonafede is guilty of professional misconduct as defined in the *Act* in that:

- (a) he failed to comply with the *Act* or the regulations or the by-laws, specifically section 32 of the by-laws, contrary to Ontario Regulation 437/97, subsection 1(14);
- (b) he failed to comply with the *Education Act*, Revised Statutes of Ontario, 1990, chapter E.2, and specifically subsection 264(1) thereof or the

Regulations made under that Act, contrary to Ontario Regulation 437/97, subsection 1(15);

- (c) he committed acts that, having regard to all the circumstances, would reasonably be regarded by members as disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional, contrary to Ontario Regulation 437/97, subsection 1(18);
- (d) he engaged in conduct unbecoming a member, contrary to Ontario Regulation 437/97, subsection 1(19).

**PARTICULARS OF THESE ALLEGATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

1. Dennis Mauro Buonafede (the “Member”) is a member of the Ontario College of Teachers in the Inactive/Non-Practising status.
2. At all material times, the Member was employed by the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (the “Board”) as a teacher at [XXX]School (the “School”) in Brampton, Ontario.
3. On or about May 10, 2021, the Member:
  - (a) sent an email to school staff that contained non-work related content;
  - (b) sent an email to school staff despite having been reminded by the School administration about the appropriate use of Board email;
  - (c) attached to the email a link to an article from Crisis Magazine entitled, “Being Critical of Critical Race Theory” and/or suggested that it is a possible resource for teachers.
4. The Member was issued a five-day unpaid suspension by the Board served from September 7 to 13, 2021.
5. The Member retired from the Board on June 30, 2022.

**THE DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A HEARING** pursuant to sections 30, 32 and 32.1 of the *Act* to decide whether the allegations are true and whether Dennis Mauro Buonafede is guilty of professional misconduct. A copy of the *Rules of Procedure of the Discipline Committee and of the Fitness to Practise Committee* (the “*Rules of Procedure*”) will be provided upon request and is also available on the College’s website.

**THE DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE WILL HEAR THIS MATTER** on a date to be determined after consultation between College Counsel and you or your counsel and fixed by the Tribunals’ Office.

**YOU ARE ENTITLED TO BE PRESENT AT THE HEARING AND TO BE REPRESENTED BY LEGAL COUNSEL.** The hearing will be held electronically using audio or video conferencing equipment, pursuant to the *Rules of Procedure* and the *Statutory Powers Procedure Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.S.22 (the “*SPPA*”).

**IF YOU DO NOT ATTEND ON THE SCHEDULED HEARING DATE, THE DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE MAY PROCEED WITH THE HEARING IN YOUR ABSENCE AND YOU WILL NOT BE PROVIDED WITH ANY FURTHER NOTICE OF PROCEEDINGS.**

**IF YOU BELIEVE THAT AN ELECTRONIC HEARING OR ELECTRONIC SET DATE HEARING IS LIKELY TO CAUSE YOU SIGNIFICANT PREJUDICE**, you must notify the Tribunals’ Office at 101 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 0A1. The Discipline Committee will then determine whether the hearing will proceed in person, electronically, in writing, or by a combination of these formats.

**IF A DATE FOR THE HEARING AND/OR THE FORMAT OF THE HEARING ARE NOT AGREED UPON, THE DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE WILL CONVENE TO DEAL WITH THE PROCEDURAL MATTER OF SETTING A DATE AND/OR ESTABLISHING THE FORMAT FOR THE HEARING.** The procedural hearing will be held electronically using audio or video conferencing equipment, pursuant to the *Rules of Procedure* and the *SPPA*.

**YOU ARE ENTITLED TO BE PRESENT WHEN THE COMMITTEE CONVENES TO SET A DATE AND/OR FORMAT FOR THE HEARING AND TO BE REPRESENTED BY LEGAL COUNSEL. IF YOU DO NOT ATTEND BEFORE THE COMMITTEE TO SET A DATE AND/OR FORMAT FOR THE HEARING, THE DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE MAY PROCEED IN YOUR ABSENCE TO SET THE DATE AND/OR FORMAT. NOTICE OF THE HEARING DATE AND/OR FORMAT SET BY THE COMMITTEE WILL BE PROVIDED TO YOU IN WRITING AT YOUR LAST KNOWN EMAIL ADDRESS AS SHOWN IN THE RECORDS OF THE COLLEGE.**

**IF THE DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE FINDS YOU GUILTY** of professional misconduct, you are liable to the penalties set out in section 30 of the *Act*.

**A MEMBER** whose conduct is being investigated in proceedings before the Discipline Committee may examine before the hearing any written or documentary evidence that will be produced or any report, the contents of which will be given as evidence at the hearing. You or your representative may contact the office of Caroline Zayid of McCarthy

Tétrault LLP, College Counsel in this matter, at Suite 5300, Toronto Dominion Bank Tower, Toronto, ON M5K 1E6, telephone 416-601-7768.

Date: October 31, 2023

*Registrar's Signature*

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**Linda Lacroix, OCT, M. Ed.**  
Registrar and Chief Executive Officer  
Ontario College of Teachers  
101 Bloor Street West  
Toronto, ON M5S 0A1

TO: Dennis Mauro Buonafede  
[XXX][XXX]

AND TO: Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association  
65 St. Clair Avenue East, Suite 400  
Toronto, ON M4T 2Y8

Jerry Raso, Counsel for the Member

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- and -

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ONTARIO COLLEGE OF TEACHERS**

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

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