

1 BEFORE THE TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION
2 OF THE STATE OF OREGON
3

4 In the Matter of the Educator) DEFAULT ORDER OF
5 License of) SUSPENSION AND PROBATION
6 ROBERT J. WALSH)

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9 On June 19, 2019, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission)
10 issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Robert J. Walsh (Walsh) in which the
11 Commission charged him with Gross Neglect of Duty. The Notice was sent via U.S. First
12 Class and U.S. Certified Mail, USPS Tracking Number 9590 9402 4592 8278 7889 74, to the
13 address on file with the Commission. The Notice designated the Commission file as the
14 record for purposes of proving a prima facie case. The Certified Mail was confirmed
15 delivered via signature by the recipient on September 24, 2019. The first-class mail was not
16 returned to the Commission and assumed delivered. The Notice of Opportunity of Hearing,
17 dated June 19, 2019, and signed by Anthony Rosilez, Executive Director, stated:

18 “IF A REQUEST FOR HEARING IS NOT RECEIVED WITHIN THIS 21-DAY
19 PERIOD, YOUR RIGHT TO A HEARING SHALL BE CONSIDERED WAIVED
20 UNLESS YOUR FAILURE TO REQUEST A HEARING WAS BEYOND YOUR
21 REASONABLE CONTROL. IF YOU DO NOT REQUEST A HEARING, WITHDRAW
22 YOUR REQUEST FOR HEARING, IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR AT A HEARING, OR
23 NOTIFY THE COMMISSION THAT YOU WILL NOT APPEAR AT HEARING, THE
24 COMMISSION WILL ADOPT AN ORDER OF DEFAULT WHICH MAY INCLUDE
25 THE REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF YOUR LICENSE OR OTHER
26 DISCIPLINE.”
27

28 Walsh initially requested a hearing, and then began to engage the Commission in settlement
29 talks. The settlement talks repeated broke down, and Walsh stopped communicating with
30 the Commission. On February 24, 2023, the Commission gave Walsh a copy of an agreed
31 upon Stipulated Order that he was directed to sign and return to the Commission. The
32 Commission provided Walsh a deadline of March 3, 2023 at 12:00PM to return the
33 Stipulated Order or he would be considered in default. As of the drafting of this Default
34 Order on March 14, 2023, the Commission has yet to hear from Walsh. The Commission,
35 therefore, finds Walsh to be in default and enters the following findings of fact, conclusions
36 of law, and final order, based on the files and records of the Commission concerning this
37 matter.
38

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1
2 1. The Commission has licensed Walsh since August 22, 2015. Walsh held an Initial Teaching
3 License, with an endorsement in English Language Arts (PK-12), valid from August 22, 2015,
4 through April 7, 2019. During all relevant times, Walsh was employed by the Canby School
5 District (CSD).
6
- 7 2. On April 14, 2017, the Commission received a report from the CSD indicating Walsh may
8 have committed an act of gross neglect of duty and/or gross unfitness. Specifically,
9 unprofessional, confrontational interactions with students and inappropriately using
10 perceived social economic status of students to determine his teaching approach.
11
- 12 3. Investigation determined that on March 14, 2017, Walsh shared with Principal Greg Dinse
13 (Dinse) that he had looked up students' residences on Google Street View so he would know
14 how to treat them based on their living conditions. Walsh told Dinse that he would use the
15 appearance of a student's home, neighborhood, number of parents, and other social
16 standards to judge difficult students. Walsh would use these judgements to guide his
17 approach to whether to use disciplinary action, adjust his expectations on student
18 participation and success, and to determine whether it would be beneficial to contact the
19 parent or guardian about student misbehavior.

20
21 Walsh told students that he thought it was weird that their home addresses were accessible
22 to teaching staff. Walsh reported that he made a joke to the students that he knew where
23 they live so they better behave. Walsh stated that a student took this as a challenge and
24 found his home address online. Other students, upon hearing that the student had found
25 Walsh's home address said they would come to his home with other students and would key
26 his car. Walsh reported that he took this as a threat to his family's safety, and in his words,
27 "flipped out" and acted aggressively towards the students. It was determined that Walsh
28 escorted the students to the office and left his classroom unattended for seven minutes. It
29 was reported that Walsh told the students "I have a gun, I'll call the cops" and "I'm ready to
30 die, are you?" Walsh's posture was aggressive, and he yelled at the students repeatedly. The
31 students reported that they were frightened by Walsh and his behavior. Walsh stated that
32 shortly after this, he realized he had "misread" the students and indicated that their behavior
33 had not been as threatening as it had seemed, and he escorted them back to the classroom.

1 During the investigation, Walsh reported that his PTSD diagnosis may have contributed to
2 his reactions.

3
4 The district determined that Walsh's conduct violated district policies, and he resigned his
5 employment effective June 15, 2017.

6 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

7 The conduct described in section three (3) above constitutes gross neglect of duty in
8 violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-
9 0010(1) (*Recognize the worth and dignity of all persons and respect for each individual*), OAR
10 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*), OAR 584-020-0020(2)(d) (*Skill in the*
11 *supervision of students*), OAR 584-020-0025(2)(e) (*Using district lawful and reasonable rules*
12 *and regulations*); and OAR 584-020-0030(2)(b) (*Skill in communicating with administrators,*
13 *students, staff, parents, and other patrons*).


14 The Commission's authority to impose discipline in this matter is based upon ORS
15 342.175.

16 **FINAL ORDER**

17 The Commission hereby issues a six (6) month suspension and two years (2)
18 probation upon Robert J. Walsh's Oregon educator license.

19 IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 16 day of March, 2023.

20 TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

21 By: 
22 Dr. Anthony Rosilez, Executive Director
23
24

25 **NOTICE OF APPEAL OR RIGHTS**

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27 YOU ARE ENTITLED TO JUDICIAL REVIEW OF THIS ORDER. JUDICIAL REVIEW
28 MAY BE OBTAINED BY FILING A PETITION FOR REVIEW WITHIN 60 DAYS FROM
29 THE SERVICE OF THIS ORDER. JUDICIAL REVIEW IS PURSUANT TO THE
30 PROVISIONS OF ORS 183.482 TO THE OREGON COURT OF APPEALS.