

1 2. On October 26, 2017, the Commission received information from GSD indicating
2 Skowhede may have committed acts, which constitute gross neglect of duty. GSD
3 reported that on or about September 20, 2017, the district had investigated
4 allegations of inappropriate interactions with students in violation of teacher /
5 student boundaries.

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7 On February 9, 2018, GSD reported to the Commission additional information
8 alleging Skowhede had further violated professional standards. Specifically that on
9 November 29, 2017, Skowhede had been under the influence of intoxicants
10 (Marijuana / THC), had refused to submit to required substance testing and that
11 Skowhede had possessed THC in the form of candies / gummies on school property.

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13 3. Investigation determined that on or about September 20, 2017, Skowhede made a
14 female student feel uncomfortable when he sat next to her in the cafeteria, took her
15 cell phone away from her in a playful manner, and then repeated her name in a
16 manner that made her feel uncomfortable. School officials also determined that in a
17 reply to students who asked Skowhede if he knew whom P.P. was (initials on a note),
18 Skowhede replied something like “I know what a Pee Pee is”, or “I have a Pee Pee”.
19 One of the students who heard Skowhede’s reply was upset by his response and
20 reported Skowhede’s inappropriate comment to school officials. As a result, the GSD
21 issued Skowhede a disciplinary letter directing him to remain professional in his
22 interactions with students.

23 4. On November 29, 2017, school staff reported to administrators that Skowhede
24 appeared under the influence at work. The Assistant Principal observed Skowhede in
25 the classroom and noted Skowhede appeared impaired, had glassy eyes and shaky
26 hands. Administrators requested that Skowhede submit to a urinalysis test and a
27 classroom search. At the testing site, Skowhede changed his mind and refused to
28 take the required test. Skowhede admitted to officials that he had “pot candies” in his
29 personal backpack stored in Skowhede’s classroom and “Pot Gummies” in his vehicle
30 parked in the school parking lot. Skowhede later provided these to school officials.
31 The gummy’s label indicated they contained 4.88mg of THC per serving. Skowhede

1 was placed on administrative leave and on December 21, 2017, Skowhede resigned
2 his employment with the GSD.

3 4 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

5 Tracy Skowhede's conduct described in sections two (2) and three (3) above
6 constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-
7 020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional*
8 *judgment*), OAR 584-020-0025(2)(e) (*Using district lawful and reasonable*
9 *rules and regulations*); and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(o) as it incorporates OAR
10 584-020-0035(1)(c)(D) (*Honoring appropriate adult boundaries with students*
11 *in conduct and conversations at all times*).

12 Tracy Skowhede's conduct described in section two (2) and four (4) above
13 constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-
14 020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional*
15 *judgment*); OAR 584-020-0025(2)(e) (*Using district lawful and reasonable*
16 *rules and regulations*); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(g) (*Appearing on duty or at any*
17 *district-sponsored activity while under the influence of alcohol, marijuana, or*
18 *any controlled substance*); and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(o) as it incorporates OAR
19 584-020-0035(3)(a) (*Maintain the dignity of the profession by respecting and*
20 *obeying the law, exemplifying personal integrity and honesty*). Skowhede's
21 conduct also constitutes gross unfitness in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(c); OAR
22 584-020-0040(5)(e) (*Admission of or engaging in acts constituting criminal*
23 *conduct, even in the absence of a conviction*).

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

1 **FINAL ORDER**

2 The Commission hereby revokes Tracy Skowhede's Oregon educator license.

3 IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 14th day of May, 2020.

4 TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

5 By: 

6 Dr. Anthony Rosilez, Executive Director

7 **NOTICE OF APPEAL OR RIGHTS**

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