

1 2022. During all relevant times, Zysett was employed by the Lake County School
2 District (LCSD).

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- 4 2. On February 11, 2018, the Commission received a complaint from a patron, and on
5 February 27, 2018, the Commission received a report from the LCSD. The complaint
6 and report indicated Zysett may have committed acts which constitute gross neglect
7 of duty and/or gross unfitness. Specifically, the complaint and report alleged Zysett
8 possessed and shared (via cellphone text/picture message) photos of MH, a minor-
9 aged female student with the LCSD.
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- 11 3. Investigation determined that Zysett took photographs of MH while accompanying
12 MH and her parents on a vacation in Mexico in the spring of 2017. The photos of MH
13 were of her wearing a bathing suit. On at least one occasion, Zysett shared a photo of
14 MH in her bathing suit with several adults via cell phone messaging. In the
15 text/picture messages Zysett shared, Zysett referred to MH as a “dream girl.” One of
16 the adults Zysett shared the photo with was Dylan Sullivan, a colleague and friend of
17 Zysett who also taught for the LCSD. Sullivan was later arrested and convicted of
18 charges relating to sexual abuse of other minor-aged students.
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- 20 4. On February 7, 2018, Oregon State Police interviewed Zysett in conjunction with the
21 arrest of Sullivan. During the interview, Zysett admitted to the investigating officers
22 that Zysett had had conversations with Sullivan about MH. During the interview
23 Zysett referred to MH as “an attractive female.” Zysett met with Will Cahill, LCSD
24 Superintendent, and admitted that Zysett had sent text/picture messages of MH,
25 and had referred to her as a “dream girl.” Later that evening, Zysett met with MH’s
26 parents and apologized for taking the photos of their daughter and for sharing them
27 with others.
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- 29 5. After the conclusion of an investigation by the LCSD, district officials determined
30 that Zysett’s conduct violated district policies. Zysett resigned his employment on
31 March 12, 2018 after learning that the district would be recommending termination
32 of his employment with the Lake County School Board.
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1 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

2 Russell S. Zysett’s conduct as described above constitutes gross neglect of duty in
3 violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-
4 020-0010(1) (*Recognize the worth and dignity of all persons and respect for each*
5 *individual*), OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*), OAR 584-020-
6 0025(2)(e) (*Using district lawful and reasonable rules and regulations*); OAR 584-
7 020-0040(4)(o) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0035(1)(b) (*Refrain from exploiting*
8 *professional relationships with any student for personal gain, or in support of persons*
9 *or issues*), OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(A) (*Not demonstrating or expressing*
10 *professionally inappropriate interest in a student's personal life*), and OAR 584-020-
11 0035(1)(c)(D) (*Honoring appropriate adult boundaries with students in conduct and*
12 *conversations at all times*).


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

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16 **FINAL ORDER**

17 The Commission hereby revokes Russell S. Zysett’s Oregon educator license.

18 IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 13th day of January, 2022.

19 **TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION**

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21 By: 
22 Dr. Anthony Rosilez, Executive Director
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26 **NOTICE OF APPEAL OR RIGHTS**

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