

**BEFORE THE TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF OREGON**

In the Matter of the)	STIPULATION OF FACTS AND
Educator License of)	FINAL ORDER OF
CHRISTOPHER H. RISER)	PUBLIC REPRIMAND AND
)	PROBATION

On April 16, 2018, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) received a misconduct report from the Portland Public School District (PPS), indicating possible professional misconduct on the part of licensed educator, Christopher H. Riser, (Riser).

After review of the matters alleged, Riser and the Commission agree that their respective interests, together with the public interest, are best served by a stipulation to certain facts, the imposition of a Public Reprimand, and a three (3) year period of probation.

This Order sets forth the facts upon which the parties have agreed and the sanction to be imposed. Riser stipulates that there are sufficient facts contained in the Commission's files and records to support the findings of fact and conclusions of law set forth below. In entering into this stipulation, Riser waives the right to a hearing to contest the findings of fact, conclusions of law and order set forth below.

By signing below, Riser acknowledges, understands, stipulates, and agrees to the following: (i) he has been fully advised of his rights to notice and a hearing to contest the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order set forth below, and fully and finally waives all such rights and any rights to appeal or otherwise challenge this Stipulation of Facts and Final Order of Public Reprimand and Probation (Stipulation and Final Order); (ii) this Stipulation and Final Order is a public document and disclosed to the public upon request by the Commission; (iii) this Stipulation and Final Order is contingent upon and subject to approval and adoption by the Commission. If the Commission does not approve and adopt this Stipulation and Final Order, then neither Riser nor the Commission are bound by the terms herein; (iv) he has fully read this Stipulation and Final Order, and understands it completely; (v) he voluntarily, without any force or duress, enters into this Stipulation and Final Order and consents to issuance and entry of the Stipulated Final Order below; (vi) he states that no promise or representation has been made to induce him to sign this Stipulation and Final Order; and (vii) he has consulted with an attorney regarding this Stipulation and Final Order and has been fully

advised with regard to his rights thereto, or waives any and all rights to consult with an attorney prior to entering into this Stipulation and Final Order and issuance and entry of the Stipulated Final Order below.

STIPULATION OF FACTS

- 1. The Commission has licensed Christopher Riser since August 26, 2013. Riser currently holds a Professional Teaching License, with endorsements in English Language Arts (PK-12), Social Studies (PK-12), and Legacy Middle Level (PK-12), valid from February 17, 2020, through February 16, 2025. During all relevant times, Riser was employed by the Portland Public Schools (PPS).**
- 2. On April 16, 2018, TSPC received a report from PPS alleging misconduct. According to the report from PPS, Riser incited and escalated a police-brutality protest and student “walk-out” off-campus.**
- 3. According to district documents and investigation, on February 9, 2018, the school administration had approved a plan to hold an assembly at Riser’s middle school with two Black Lives Matter activists invited by another teacher and coordinated by Riser, related to activism against police brutality. The school administration had also approved that after the assembly, Riser would leave his instructional duties and march with the activists from the middle school to the police precinct to join a demonstration against police violence, and then return directly to the school. Riser had also received administrator approval for any parents who had signed their students out of school to bring their children and accompany him on the march. At the end of the assembly, without prior warning to Riser, the activists incited several hundred students to walk off the school campus without authorization and participate in the march. Riser failed to stop the activists from encouraging the unplanned walk-out. Riser walked with the students, and various PPS educators and administrators, from the school to the police precinct, and then to Jefferson High School and the Portland Community College campus, at times in the middle of city streets. Along the way, at the urging of the activists, Riser encouraged the students to sit and lie down in the middle of the intersection of NE Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and NE Ainsworth Street, in Portland. The unauthorized march was over three miles**

long, and took over two hours. For Riser's involvement in this incident, PPS issued him a three day suspension and a written reprimand.

IT IS SO STIPULATED:



Christopher H. Riser

5/1/21

Date



Trent Danowski, Deputy Director
Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

5/14/2021

Date

CONCLUSION OF LAW

The conduct described above constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*), OAR 584-020-0025(2)(e) (*Using district lawful and reasonable rules and regulations*); and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(o) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0035(1)(b) (*Refrain from exploiting professional relationships with any student for personal gain, or in support of persons or issues*).

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

ORDER

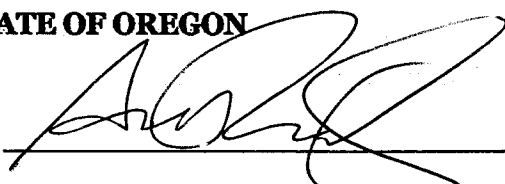
The Commission adopts and incorporates herein the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, and based thereon, imposes a Public Reprimand upon Riser's Oregon educator license. Additionally, the Commission imposes a three (3) year period of probation on Riser to commence upon adoption of this order.

Issued and dated this 22 day of ^{June}~~April~~ 2021. 

TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

STATE OF OREGON

By _____


Dr. Anthony Rosilez, Executive Director