

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

3
4 **STIPULATION OF FACT**

- 5 1. Timothy J. Commins has been licensed by the Commission since June 25, 2007. Commins
6 holds a Professional Teaching License, with endorsements in Foundational Social Studies
7 (PK-12); Foundation Science (PK-12); Elementary – Multiple Subjects (PK-12);
8 Foundational Mathematics (PK-12); and Legacy Middle Level (PK-12), valid from March 13,
9 2017, through March 12, 2022. During all relevant times, Commins was employed by the
10 Crook County School District (CCSD).
- 11 2. On January 31, 2019, the Commission received a report from the CCSD indicating Commins
12 may have committed acts which constitute gross neglect of duty and/or gross unfitness. The
13 misconduct report alleged Commins engaged in inappropriate teacher/student boundaries
14 with a student and her family.
- 15 3. Investigation determined that beginning the school year of 2016-2017, Commins established
16 an unprofessional, personal relationship with 10-year-old female student in his fifth grade
17 classroom. During parent/teacher conferences with the student’s mother, Commins
18 informed the mother he wanted to be a positive role model for her daughter and began
19 communicating directly with the mother and daughter by phone, text, and social media.
20 Commins arranged with the mother to allow him to take the student and her younger sibling
21 for visits and outings. During the summer of 2017, Commins requested to take the student
22 on outings approximately thirty (30) times and requested the student visit him at his
23 residence approximately thirty (30) times.

24
25 In August 2017, the mother became uncomfortable with Commins’ relationship with her
26 daughter and stopped responding to communications from Commins. In September 2017,
27 Commins delivered a box of gifts for the mother and daughter, along with a letter asking for
28 reconciliation. The mother contacted the police, who contacted Commins. CCSD officials
29 provided Commins with clear expectations to cease all contact with the mother and the
30 daughter and to stay away from the family’s residence. Commins adhered to that directive
31 for several months. In December 2017, in response to the student calling herself “garbage”
32 in a Facebook post, Commins posted comments on the student’s Facebook page stating she
33 was “dazzlingly beautiful, joy-inspiring, and heart-healing”. Commins had no further
34 contact with the family until October 2018, when he secretly placed a crockpot of food for

1 the family on the curb side of the street near the family's residence. On December 6, 2018,
2 Commins covertly sent the student a letter via the school district mail system. In the letter,
3 Commins told the student he missed her and hoped he could continue their relationship. On
4 January 9, 2019, Commins was cited by police for Criminal Trespass for the crockpot, and
5 the police warned him about felony stalking laws. The trespass charges were later dropped.
6 In February 2019, Commins resigned from his employment with CCSD in lieu of termination
7 for policy violations related to his conduct.

- 8
- 9 4. Commins, a former U.S. Army Ranger and Pathfinder, explained to CCSD and TSPC in the
10 course of their respective investigations that he felt a duty to connect with and protect the
11 student due to a significant traumatic military incident he experienced related to a similarly
12 aged child. Commins has voluntarily undertaken over a year of mental health counseling to
13 help him heal from past military-related trauma and clarify professional boundaries, and has
14 received an independent psychological evaluation indicating he is not a risk to students.

15 **IT IS SO STIPULATED:**

16 <u>Timothy J. Commins</u>	<u>11-24-2020</u>
17 Timothy J. Commins	Date
18 <u>Trent J. Danowski</u>	<u>12-15-2020</u>
19 Trent Danowski, Deputy Director	Date
20 Teacher Standards and Practices Commission	

21

22 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

23 Timothy J. Commins's conduct described above constitutes gross neglect of duty in
24 violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-
25 0010(1) (*Recognize the worth and dignity of all persons and respect for each individual*), OAR
26 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*), OAR 584-020-0025(2)(e) (*Using district lawful
27 and reasonable rules and regulations*); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(o) as it incorporates OAR 584-
28 020-0035(1)(b) (*Refrain from exploiting professional relationships with any student for
29 personal gain, or in support of persons or issues*), OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(A) (*Not
30 demonstrating or expressing professionally inappropriate interest in a student's personal life*),
31 and OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(D) (*Honoring appropriate adult boundaries with students in
32 conduct and conversations at all times*).

33 The Commission's authority to impose discipline in this matter is based upon ORS
34 342.175.

1 **FINAL ORDER**

2 The Commission hereby revokes Commins' Oregon educator license.

3
4 IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 5 day of February, 2021.

5 TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

6 By: _____



7 Dr. Anthony Rosilez, Executive Director
8 NOTICE OF APPEAL OR RIGHTS
9

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.