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2. On April 9, 2019, the Commission received a report from the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) indicating Conlon had grabbed the hood of a sixth grade student, CG, at Patrick Lynch Elementary School on April 5, 2019. The student reported that Conlon grabbed the hood of his sweatshirt and “yanked” him back into class as he was attempting to leave the classroom. CG reported this action caused his sweatshirt to push up against his throat and “choked him a little bit.” The incident was reported to the Portland Police Bureau, however no criminal charges were pursued.

3. Investigation determined that on April 5, 2019, Conlon grabbed student CG by the hood of his sweatshirt as he was attempting to leave your classroom. Additionally, it was concluded that Conlon had made several disparaging remarks to students. The investigation cited student witnesses as the reason the allegations were substantiated. ESS reportedly terminated Conlon’s employment. TSPC confirmed that this matter had been referred to the Portland Police Bureau, however no criminal charges were pursued.

On November 18, 2020, a telephone interview was conducted with a TSPC investigator. During the call, Conlon admitted to inadvertently grabbing CG’s hood. Conlon reported that CG was running towards a closed door and a group of students with a lowered shoulder, when he attempted to prevent injury to CG and the other students by reaching out for CG’s torso. Conlon reported that while doing so, his hand got caught in CG’s hood. Conlon reported during his interview that he was never interviewed by the district or ESS in regards to this matter, and found out later, through a co-worker that he had been found to have used “inappropriate force” against CG, and had been terminated from ESS. Conlon reported to TSPC that he wished he had taken more personal risk by standing in front of CG to prevent him from hitting students and the door, rather than reaching out to stop him. Conlon reported that he was “one hundred percent sure” CG was going to get hurt. Conlon reported that in his mind, this was a “student safety issue.”

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CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The conduct described in sections two (2), and three (3) above constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*), OAR 584-020-0020(2)(d) (*Skill in the supervision of students*), OAR 584-020-0025(2)(e) (*Using district lawful and reasonable rules and regulations*); and 584-020-0040(4)(d)(*Unreasonable physical force against students, fellow employees, or visitors to the school, except as permitted under ORS 339.250*).


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

FINAL ORDER

The Commission hereby issues a sixty-day (30) suspension and two years (2) probation upon Matthew Conlon’s Oregon educator license.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 27th day of January, 2022.

TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

By: 
Dr. Anthony Rosilez, Executive Director

NOTICE OF APPEAL OR RIGHTS

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