1 BEFORE THE TEACHERS STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION 2 OF THE STATE OF OREGON 3 4 In the Matter of the STIPULATION OF FACTS AND 5 Educator License of FINAL ORDER OF SUSPENSION) 6 KAWANNA T. BOLDEN AND PROBATION) 7 8 On February 17, 2020, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission 9 (Commission) received a report from the Portland Public School District (District) 10 indicating Kawanna T. Bolden (Bolden) may have committed acts of gross neglect of duty 11 and/or gross unfitness. Specifically, it was alleged Bolden engaged in inappropriate 12 teacher/student relationships. 13 After review of the matters alleged, Bolden and the Commission agree that their 14 respective interests, together with the public interest, are best served by a stipulation to 15 certain facts and the imposition of a thirty (30) day suspension, and a two (2) year period 16 of probation. 17 This Order sets forth the facts upon which the parties have agreed and the 18 sanction to be imposed. Bolden stipulates that there are sufficient facts contained in the 19 Commission's files and records to support the findings of fact and conclusions of law set 20 forth below. In entering into this stipulation, Bolden waives the right to a hearing to 21 contest the findings of fact, conclusions of law and order set forth below. 22 By signing below, Bolden acknowledges, understands, stipulates, and agrees to 23 the following: (i) she has been fully advised of her rights to notice and a hearing to 24 contest the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order set forth below, and fully and 25 finally waives all such rights and any rights to appeal or otherwise challenge this 26 Stipulation of Facts and Final Order of Suspension and Probation (Stipulation and Final 27 Order); (ii) this Stipulation and Final Order is a public document and disclosed to the 28 public upon request by the Commission; (iii) this Stipulation and Final Order is 29 contingent upon and subject to approval and adoption by the Commission. If the 30 Commission does not approve and adopt this Stipulation and Final Order, then neither 31 Bolden nor the Commission are bound by the terms herein; (iv) she has fully read this 32 Stipulation and Final Order, and understands it completely; (v) she voluntarily, without 33 any force or duress, enters into this Stipulation and Final Order and consents to issuance 34 and entry of the Stipulated Final Order below; (vi) she states that no promise or

representation has been made to induce her to sign this Stipulation and Final Order; and

(vii) she has consulted with an attorney regarding this Stipulation and Final Order and

has been fully advised with regard to her rights thereto, or waives any and all rights to

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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

The Commission has licensed Bolden since July 26, 2018. Bolden holds a
Preliminary Teaching License, with an endorsement in English Language Arts
(PK-12), valid from July 7, 2021, through December 6, 2024. During all relevant
times, Bolden was employed by Portland Public School District (PPSD).

2. On February 7, 2020, the Commission received a report from PPS indicating Bolden may have committed acts which constitute gross neglect of duty and/or gross unfitness. Specifically, the report alleged Bolden engaged in inappropriate teacher/student relationships, which included allowing students to spend the night at her residence, texting with students about non-school related topics, and transporting students in her personal vehicle without proper authorization.

3. Investigation determined that in the fall of 2019, Bolden formed a relationship with four (4) upperclassmen, JG, JJ, MH, and NR, who were enrolled in her leadership class at Jefferson High School. NR was a male student, and the others were female students. In time, the students began referring to the group as "The Family", the group often referred to Bolden as "Ma" or "Mom." Bolden maintains she did not start the use of these familiar terms.

4. On November 23, 2019, Bolden invited the four students to her residence to socialize for the evening. While at Bolden's residence, everyone played a game and Bolden asked the students questions about their social lives. JG and NR departed Bolden's residence later in the evening after finishing the game. On December 6, 2019, Bolden had dinner at a restaurant with several students and posted photographs of the evening, which included the students' faces, on Instagram. On December 24, 2019, the students spent time at Bolden's residence and left at approximately 10:00 or 11:00 PM. While at Bolden's residence, Bolden and the students exchanged gifts which the students picked out for each other and Bolden had paid for. On January 4, 2020, Bolden used the communications application FaceTime on her personal cellular phone, from her residence, to communicate with a student after 10:00 PM. JJ and

1 MH participated in the call from Bolden's residence. Bolden and the students 2 regularly participated in group text messages beginning in early November 2019, 3 through January 7, 2020. 4 5 5. On January 9, 2020, Bolden was in the hallway near her classroom wearing a 6 sweatshirt belonging to NR. A student reported that Bolden held it close to her chest,

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smelled it and then remarked, "That was the only man in my life and the only man I loved." Bolden maintains that she did not utter this statement. Bolden reported that she found the sweatshirt in her classroom, did not know whose it was, wore it because she was cold, and then took it off because she did not want to get it dirty.

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6. On December 19, 2019, Bolden transported JG, JJ, and MH in Bolden's personal automobile to a local shopping center without proper district authorization. On January 7, 2020, Bolden transported JJ and MH in her personal automobile to a basketball game at another high school in the district without proper authorization. On several other occasions during the 2019-2020 school year, Bolden transported students, sometimes with a single student passenger and other times with multiple student passengers, to school, to the students' places of work, to the students' residences, to school activities and to other venues for school-related activities. On one occasion Bolden transported students to Eugene, OR, to attend a sporting event without proper authorization. For many of these trips Bolden had parental permission but may not have had proper paperwork filed for district permission because she was confused about the procedure for doing so.

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7. Bolden was provided the PPSD investigation report regarding her conduct. Bolden was recommended for termination but then offered a "Last Chance Agreement," which was signed by Bolden and the PPSD on August 12, 2021. To date, Bolden has successfully completed all the provisions of this agreement.

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| IT IS SO STIPULATED: Kavanna Bolden | Jun 3, 2022 |
|--|-------------|
| Kawanna T. Bolden | Date |
| Ix & Daromer | 06/07/2022 |
| Trent Danowski, Deputy Director | Date |

Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

1 CONCLUSION OF LAW 2 The conduct described above constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS 3 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(5) (Use 4 professional judgment), OAR 584-020-0025(2)(e) (Using district lawful and reasonable 5 rules and regulations); and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(0) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-6 0035(1)(c)(A) (Not demonstrating or expressing professionally inappropriate interest in 7 a student's personal life), OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(B) (Not accepting or giving or 8 exchanging romantic or overly personal gifts or notes with students), and OAR 584-020-9 0035(1)(c)(D) (Honoring appropriate adult boundaries with students in conduct and 10 conversations at all times). 11 The Commission's authority to impose discipline in this matter is based upon ORS 12 342.175. 13 14 ORDER 15 The Commission adopts and incorporates herein the above findings of fact and 16 conclusions of law, and based thereon, imposes a thirty (30) day suspension upon 17 Kawanna T. Bolden's Oregon educator license. Furthermore, the Commission imposes a period of two (2) years of probation 18 19 upon Bolden's licensure to commence from the date the order is signed by the 20 Commission and subject to the following conditions: 21 Bolden shall comply with the Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance 22 of Oregon Educators under Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter 584, Division 23 020. 24 2. Prior to reinstatement, Bolden shall provide to the Commission evidence of participation in professional counseling specifically related to teacher/student 25 26 boundaries. 27 Issued and dated this day of June, 2022. 28 29 30 TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION 31 STATE OF OREGON 32 33

Dr. Anthony Rosilez, Executive Director

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