

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  
LAURIE J. COX ) SUSPENSION

On April 24, 2020, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) received an educator misconduct report from the Albany School District (ASD), indicating possible professional misconduct on the part of licensed educator, Laurie J. Cox (Cox.)

After review of the matters alleged, Cox and the Commission agree that their respective interests, together with the public interest, are best served by a stipulation to certain facts and the imposition of a suspension.

This Order sets forth the facts upon which the parties have agreed and the sanction to be imposed. Cox 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, Cox waives the right to a hearing to contest the findings of fact, conclusions of law and order set forth below.

By signing below, Cox acknowledges, understands, stipulates, and agrees to the following: (i) she has been fully advised of her 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 Suspension (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 Cox nor the Commission are bound by the terms herein; (iv) she has fully read this Stipulation and Final Order, and understands it completely; (v) she 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) 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 consult with an attorney prior

1 to entering into this Stipulation and Final Order and issuance and entry of the Stipulated  
2 Final Order below.

### 3 STIPULATION OF FACTS

- 4 1. The Commission has licensed Cox since September 7, 1999. Cox currently holds a  
5 Professional Teaching License, with endorsements in Elementary – Multiple  
6 Subjects (PK-12), English to Speakers of Other Languages (PK-12), Foundational  
7 Social Studies (PK-12), Early Childhood Education (PK-12) and Specialization:  
8 Early Childhood Education (PK-12), valid from March 10, 2020 through April 22,  
9 2025. During all relevant times, Cox was employed by the Albany School District  
10 (ASD).  
11
- 12 2. On April 24, 2020, the Commission received a report from the ASD alleging that  
13 Cox had engaged in conduct that may be considered gross neglect of duty and/or  
14 gross unfitness. The report alleged Cox failed to properly make, or ensure others  
15 made, a proper mandatory report of suspected sexual abuse of a child.

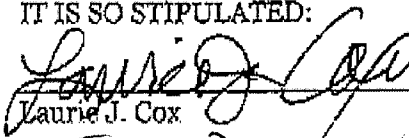
16 Investigation determined the following:  
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- 19 a. On February 12, 2020, Cox's husband was arrested for multiple counts of  
20 sexual abuse of her daughters (Cox's husband's stepdaughters) which had  
21 allegedly occurred between 1999 and 2002. Police came to Cox's school to  
22 speak to her about the arrest and allegations. Cox's husband was released  
23 from police custody the next day, and as of this date, he has not been  
24 contacted again by police or the district attorney's office. The ASD placed  
25 Cox on administrative leave on February 14, 2020 while they conducted  
26 an investigation.  
27
- 28 b. The ASD and TSPC investigations determined that it was more likely than  
29 not that Cox knew of an allegation by one of her daughters that involved  
30 questionable touching of the daughter by her husband. Statements of  
31 witnesses indicate that Cox was concerned enough about the allegations  
32 to seek the assistance of her church in Albany. The pastor of the church  
33 met with Cox's husband and their daughters to discuss the touching. Cox  
34 reports that she did not attend the meeting. After the meeting, the pastor  
35 advised that there was no basis upon which to make a report of child


1 abuse. Cox reports that based upon this advice, she did not make a report  
 2 of child abuse. However, the ASD hired a private investigator to complete  
 3 the district investigation, and the investigator obtained emails from 2006  
 4 between Cox and a family member. The emails show that Cox was aware  
 5 that her daughters were troubled by the conduct of Cox's husband.  
 6 Despite this knowledge, Cox did not make a report of child abuse. The  
 7 investigator hired by ASD did not personally interview Cox.

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 10 c. On April 20, 2020, Cox entered into a resignation agreement with the  
 11 ASD in lieu of termination.  
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14 IT IS SO STIPULATED:

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 16 \_\_\_\_\_  
 17 Laurie J. Cox

10/25/2021  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

18   
 19 \_\_\_\_\_  
 20 Trent Danowski, Deputy Director  
 Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

10/25/2021  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

21  
 22 **CONCLUSION OF LAW**

23 The conduct described in section two (2) above constitutes gross neglect of duty  
 24 in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-  
 25 020-0010(5) (Use professional judgment), OAR 584-020-0025(2)(e) (Using district  
 26 lawful and reasonable rules and regulations); and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(s)(Failing to  
 27 report child abuse pursuant to ORS 419B.010).  
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29 The Commission's authority to impose discipline in this matter is based upon  
 30 ORS 342.175.


31 **ORDER**

32 The Commission adopts and incorporates herein the above findings of fact and  
 33 conclusions of law, and based thereon, imposes a six (6) month suspension on Laurie J.  
 34 Cox's Oregon educator license. Additionally, the Commission requires that Cox submit  
 35 proof of completion of a mandatory reporter training to be completed within the term of  
 36 the six (6) month suspension.

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Issued and dated this 5 day of November 2021.

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

By  \_\_\_\_\_

Dr. Anthony Rosilez, Executive Director