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STIPULATION OF FACTS

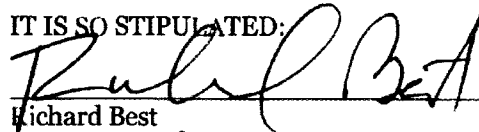
1. Best submitted an application for a Charter School Registry-Administrator, on December 30, 2020. Best’s application was placed on hold pending resolution of this matter. During all relevant times, Best was employed at the Mosier Community School (MCS) which is sponsored by the North Wasco County School District (NWCSD).

2. On July 1, 2020, Best was hired by the NWCSD to serve as the MCS Director. Best did not possess an Oregon Administrator License or Charter School Registry-Administrator. Best had not completed the preliminary steps necessary to temporarily work for ninety (90) days. Preliminary steps included having an application on file with the Commission and having cleared a fingerprint and background check. Relying on his previous experience of obtaining licensure out-of-state, Best believed human resources personnel initiated and handled the licensing application process at MCS. On December 29, 2020, approximately six (6) months after Best began working for the NWCSD, Best started the process of creating an eLicensing account on the Commission’s licensing portal. On December 30, 2020, a NWCSD staff member contacted Best about not finding a record of Best having an Oregon license. Later that day, Best completed and submitted his application for a Charter School Registry-Administrator on the licensing portal. Had Best applied in a timely fashion, there were no reasons the application would have been denied and Best would have been granted a license. At a meeting on January 5, 2021, the MCS Board Chair placed Best on administrative leave for failing to have a valid Oregon license or charter registry. On January 8, 2021, Best resigned his position.

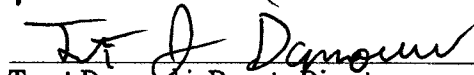
3. In August 2020, Best was responsible for hiring a person to fill an English-Spanish Language Immersion Educator position. The new employee did not possess a valid Oregon teaching license or charter school registry. When the employee asked Best about this, Best told the employee he (Best), “would handle this”, consistent with Best’s belief that human resources personnel at MCS would be initiating and handling the application process. On December 30, 2020, a NWCSD staff member was unable to locate a record of this employee having an Oregon license. At a meeting on January 5, 2021, the MCS Board Chair placed the

1 employee on administrative leave for failing to have a valid Oregon teaching
2 license or charter school registry. The employee was granted a charter school
3 registry on March 2, 2021, and remains employed at the school.
4

5 IT IS SO STIPULATED:

6 
7 Richard Best

9/22/2021
Date

8 
9 Trent Danowski, Deputy Director
10 Teacher Standards and Practices Commission
11

10/04/2021
Date

12
13 **CONCLUSION OF LAW**

14 The conduct described above constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS
15 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use*
16 *professional judgment*), OAR 584-020-0025 (3)(a) (*Leadership skills in managing the*
17 *school, its students, staff and programs as required by lawful and reasonable district*
18 *policies, rules, regulations, state and federal laws and regulations, and other programs*
19 *as assigned, and assures that the staff is informed of these requirements*); OAR 584-
20 020-0025 (3)(b) (*Skills in planning and staff assignment*); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(r)
21 (*Working without a license*); OAR 584-050-0035 (1) (*Any person employed in a*
22 *position in a school district, education service district, or charter school for which a*
23 *license or registration is required pursuant to ORS Chapter 342, must hold a valid*
24 *license or registration appropriate for the assignment while working as a public school,*
25 *education service district or charter school employee*); and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(i)
26 (*Assigning an educator in violation of licensure requirements*).
27

28 The Commission's authority to impose discipline in this matter is based upon
29 ORS 342.175.
30

31 **ORDER**

32 The Commission adopts and incorporates herein the above findings of fact and
33 conclusions of law, and based thereon, imposes a Public Reprimand on Richard Best's
34 Oregon educator license.

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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