

1 consult with an attorney prior to entering into this Stipulation and Final Order and
2 issuance and entry of the Stipulated Final Order below.

3 **STIPULATION OF FACTS**

- 4 1. The Commission has licensed Horner since September 14, 2017. Horner holds a
5 Preliminary Teaching License, with an endorsement in Special Education:
6 Generalist (PK-12), valid from July 21, 2019, through March 24, 2023. During all
7 relevant times, Horner was employed by the Beaverton School District (BSD).
8
9 2. On April 2, 2021, the Commission received a Screening Report from Oregon's
10 Department of Human Services (DHS) alleging Horner had made threats of harm
11 to a 17-year-old male student (LD) in the BSD. It was reported to DHS that
12 Horner had text LD's older sister and told her that she was going to kill LD, bury
13 him, and make sure no one would ever find him. The report also alleged that
14 Horner and LD had a prior relationship, and that LD would come and stay at her
15 home. The reporter indicated that they were not aware if Horner and LD had a
16 sexual or intimate relationship but stated that 2-3 months prior to Horner
17 making the threat to kill LD, Horner and LD had a falling out, and LD blocked
18 Horner and stopped communicating with her. The reporter believed this was the
19 reason Horner threatened LD.
20
21 3. District and law enforcement investigation into this matter confirmed the threats.
22 No evidence of a sexual or intimate relationship between Horner and LD were
23 discovered, and LD told investigators that the relationship was never romantic or
24 sexual. Investigation determined that Horner allowed LD to live in her home due
25 to turmoil and unrest in his own home. Horner told investigators that she was
26 just trying to help LD and his family and claimed that the BSD was aware LD was
27 living with her. Horner provided over 30 pages of documents detailing this
28 multi-year relationship with multiple family members. Horner stands by the
29 stance that this was not a professional relationship but a familia one. Horner
30 stated, and it was confirmed, that LD had been added to the rental agreement of
31 her apartment. Horner also stated that BSD had her address listed for LD in the
32 district student records database. A review of BSD records showed that Horner
33 was listed as the parent/guardian for LD, though she did not have legal guardian
34 or custody status of him. Horner stated that she never presented herself as LD's
35 guardian. The police report (pg. 21 – section 3) stated that LD's mother had given

1 multiple teachers and staff permission to speak with Horner about LD's
2 schoolwork, which she speculates may have been the reason the guardian status
3 had been improperly documented with BSD. Investigation revealed that LD
4 continued having behavioral issues, and there were concerns of criminal activities
5 and drug use. LD and Horner had a falling out because of this, and LD indicated
6 that Horner was acting like his mother and telling him what to do all the time.
7 Horner provided documentation that she had changed her phone number in an
8 attempt to sever ties with the family and that she told them she had moved.
9 During this time Horner sent texts to LD's sister (not LD) whom Horner stated
10 was also her friend in response to LD calling her in Hawaii and threatening her.

11
12 During the law enforcement and district investigation of this matter, Horner
13 admitted to writing the texts, and to making the threats against LD. Horner told
14 investigators that she was angry because LD had called her in Hawaii to threaten
15 her (police report pg. 23, section 2) and indicated that she never really intended
16 to harm LD. Horner reported that she responded inappropriately to her
17 livelihood being threatened by false allegations from someone she had asked to
18 no longer contact her. Horner provided documentation that she had changed her
19 phone number in an attempt to sever ties with the family and that she told them
20 she had moved.

21
22 4. On December 1, 2020, Horner submitted her resignation from BSD to be effective
23 at the end of the 2020-21 school year. Horner reports that the resignation was
24 due to chronic bullying from veteran Highland Park teachers and is in no way
25 connect to this case.

26
27 5. Horner interviewed with TSPC Investigative staff on May 27, 2021. During the
28 interview, Horner admitted to allowing LD to live in her home to escape a bad
29 family environment. Horner admitted to sending the threatening text messages
30 to LD's sister, but not to LD. Horner denied that the relationship was ever sexual
31 or romantic, and indicated that she eventually had to kick LD out of her home
32 due to his poor behavior, drug use, and criminal activity. Horner reported that
33 the allegations against her were retaliation from LD's family for not getting what
34 they wanted from her. Horner provided evidence of text messages where LD

1 threatened to say he was going to tell the cops that she touched another student if
2 she didn't pick him up. (police report pg. 27, section 1.) Horner stated that her
3 intentions of helping LD were always good but indicated that she felt like they
4 missed the mark. Horner reported that she tried to be very open and honest with
5 everyone in her life, including people she worked with at BSD about her level of
6 involvement with LD. Horner stated that she felt like people would have told her
7 had she crossed a boundary. Horner reported that she would not make the same
8 choices again in the future and stated she learned a painful lesson.

9
10

11 IT IS SO STIPULATED:

12 April Horner
13 April L. Horner

10/21/2021

Date

14 Trent Danowski
15 Trent Danowski, Deputy Director
16 Teacher Standards and Practices Commission
17

10/25/2021

Date

18
19

20 **CONCLUSION OF LAW**

21 The conduct described in sections two (2) three (3) four (4) and five (5) above
22 constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0010(5)
23 (*Use professional judgment*), OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(A) (*Not demonstrating or*
24 *expressing professionally inappropriate interest in a student's personal life*), and OAR
25 584-020-0035(1)(c)(D) (*Honoring appropriate adult boundaries with students in*
26 *conduct and conversations at all times*).

27

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

30 **ORDER**

31 The Commission adopts and incorporates herein the above findings of fact and
32 conclusions of law, and based thereon, imposes a thirty (30) day suspension on April L.
33 Horner's Oregon educator license. Additionally, the commission imposes a term of
34 Probation for not less than three (3) years. Furthermore, the Commission requires that

1 Horner submit proof of completion of a boundaries training course so be completed
2 within the 1st year of Probation.

3 Issued and dated this 5 day of November 2021.

4

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

7

8

By  _____

9

Dr. Anthony Rosilez, Executive Director

