

1 December 21, 2024. During all relevant times, Lenoue was employed by the Dallas
2 School District (DSD).

3
4 2. On June 14, 2021 the Commission received a School District Misconduct Report
5 from the DSD regarding Matthew Lenoue, a teacher at Dallas High School (DHS).
6 The report alleges that on June 11, 2021, Lenoue approached a female staff member,
7 straddled her lap, ran his hands up her shirt and fondled her breasts. The report
8 states that the Dallas Police Department (DPD) was contacted, and Lenoue was
9 arrested on charges of Harassment and Sexual Abuse.

10
11 3. Investigation by DSD and DPD documented the following:

- 12
- 13 • Lenoue and Stephanie Thomas (Thomas) were close friends for years prior
14 to this incident.
- 15 • Thomas worked as a Special Education Assistance at DHS.
- 16 • Lenoue worked as a Special Education Teacher at DHS.
- 17 • Thomas reported that Lenoue was going through a divorce.
- 18 • Lenoue and Thomas had discussed dating but had chosen to remain
19 friends.
- 20 • On June 11, 2021 Thomas was alone with Lenoue in his classroom on a
21 work break, sitting on a rocking chair with her legs up on a stool in front of
22 him.
- 23 • Lenoue walked over to Thomas, stepped over her legs, straddling her.
- 24 • Lenoue began to rub her clothed legs and thighs and worked his hands up
25 to her upper thighs and groin.
- 26 • Thomas told Lenoue to stop and told him “no.”
- 27 • Thomas attempted to push his hands away from her.
- 28 • Lenoue continued to touch Thomas and placed his hand on her clothed
29 vagina and rubbed it for 3-4 seconds.
- 30 • Lenoue then groped Thomas’ clothed breasts with his hands.
- 31 • Thomas then answered a phone call to her cell phone.

- 1 • While Thomas was on the phone Thomas slid his hands under her shirt
- 2 and bra and groped her naked breasts.
- 3 • Thomas left Lenoue’s classroom and confided in a friend what had
- 4 happened and reported the incident to DHS administration.
- 5 • DHS placed you on administrative leave.
- 6 • Lenoue sent a text message to Thomas, apologizing for his actions, and
- 7 acknowledged that she had told him no, yet he continued to touch her.
- 8 • DPD was notified of the incident and conducted an investigation.
- 9 • Lenoue was arrested on two counts of Sexual Abuse in the first degree, two
- 10 counts of Attempt to Commit a Class B Felony, two counts of Sexual Abuse
- 11 in the third degree, and two counts of Attempt to Commit a Class A
- 12 Misdemeanor and Harassment.
- 13 • On June 2, 2022, Lenoue pled guilty to one count of Harassment and was
- 14 sentenced to thirty (30) days of suspended jail time and five (5) years
- 15 probation. The remaining charges were dismissed.
- 16 • Prior to this incident, Lenoue submitted his resignation to DSD on May
- 17 25, 2021, with an effective date of June 17, 2021.

18

19

20 4. Lenoue interviewed with TSPC investigative staff on November 8, 2022. During the

21 interview Lenoue reported that he misread Thomas thinking she was enjoying his

22 actions. Lenoue reported that he felt like he was led on by Thomas but accepts what

23 happened and admitted that this should have never taken place at school. In the

24 interview he denied touching Thomas’s vagina but did admit to touching her breasts.

25 Lenoue reported that he agreed to plead guilty to the Harassment charge because he

26 was facing 7 years in prison if he had been found guilty of all of the criminal charges

27 he had been arrested for. Lenoue reported that he has no intentions of teaching

28 anymore after this incident.

29

30

31

1 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

2 The conduct described above constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation
3 of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-
4 0010(1) (*Recognize the worth and dignity of all persons and respect for each*
5 *individual*), OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*), and OAR 584-
6 020-0025(2)(e) (*Using district lawful and reasonable rules and regulations.*)
7

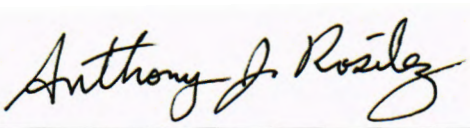
8
9 The Commission’s authority to impose discipline in this matter is based
10 upon ORS 342.175.

11 **FINAL ORDER**

12 The Commission hereby suspends Lenoue’s Oregon teaching license for a period
13 of six (6) months. Additionally, the Commission will require completion of a Sexual
14 Harassment training course to be completed as a condition of reinstatement.
15

16 IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 28 day of April, 2023.
17

18 TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

19 By: 
20 Dr. Anthony Rosilez, Executive Director
21

22 **NOTICE OF APPEAL OR RIGHTS**
23

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