

BEFORE THE TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF OREGON

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| In the Matter of the |) | STIPULATION OF FACTS AND |
| Educator License of |) | FINAL ORDER OF |
| DEAN M. WRIGHT |) | PUBLIC REPRIMAND |

On July 29, 2021, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) received a report from Oregon’s Department of Human Services (DHS) alleging possible professional misconduct on the part of licensed educator, Dean M. Wright (Wright). On August 5, 2021, the Commission received a school district misconduct report from the Salem-Keizer School District (District) alleging the same misconduct as was detailed in the DHS report.

After review of the matters alleged, Wright 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 Public Reprimand.

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

By signing below, Wright acknowledges, understands, stipulates, and agrees to the following: (i) he has been fully advised of his 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 Public Reprimand (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 Wright nor the Commission are bound by the terms herein; (iv) he has fully read this Stipulation and Final Order, and understands it completely; (v) he 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) he states that no promise or representation has been made to induce him to sign this Stipulation and Final Order; and (vii) he has consulted with an attorney regarding this Stipulation and Final Order and has been fully advised with regard to his rights thereto, or waives any and all rights to 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

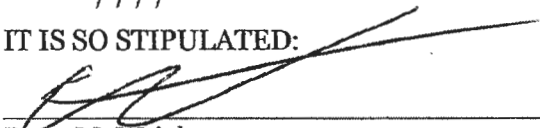
1. The Commission has licensed Wright since August 23, 2017. Wright currently holds a Professional Teaching License, with endorsements in Elementary - Multiple Subjects (PK-12); Foundational English Language Arts (PK-12); and Foundational Social Studies (PK-12), valid from July 9, 2021, through July 14, 2026. During all relevant times Wright was employed by the Salem-Keizer School District (SKSD).
2. On July 29, 2021, the Commission received a report from the Oregon's DHS reporting they had received information alleging Wright had communicated with a minor-aged student on an adult dating application. On August 5, 2021, the Commission received a School District Misconduct Report from the SKSD reporting that Wright may have committed an act of gross neglect of duty and/or gross unfitness. Specifically, the SKSD alleged Wright communicated with a sixteen (16) year-old student on an adult dating application and other social media applications.
3. Investigation determined that during the summer of 2021, Wright communicated with R, a sixteen (16) year old student in the SKSD, on an adult dating application and a social media messaging application. Wright's initial exchanges on the dating application with R focused on getting to know each other. During these initial exchanges, Wright learned that R was sixteen (16) years old. Wright did not cease communicating with R or block R from Wright's dating application account. Wright provided his messaging account information to R and the two began communicating via this application. On the messaging application, Wright and R continued communicating and shared approximately nine (9) ordinary photos, most of which were selfies. Several days later, R sent Wright a photo of R's genitals. It was only after receiving the explicit photo from R that Wright ceased communicating with R.
4. On August 2, 2021, school officials interviewed Wright about the allegation. Wright admitted to communicating with R on the dating application and that R knew Wright was a teacher. Wright admitted he knew R was sixteen (16) years of

age. Wright confirmed R sent Wright a photo of R's genitals via the messaging application. Wright admitted not immediately ceasing communications with R when Wright learned R was a minor. Wright confirmed he did not notify his supervisor of the interaction because it was summer.

5. On August 18, 2021, the SKSD issued Wright a Letter of Warning and issued directives about maintaining appropriate boundaries with students in accordance with district policy, using good judgement, actions to take when discovering online interactions involve minors, and to follow the district policy regarding postings on personal social media accounts.

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IT IS SO STIPULATED:



Dean M. Wright

7/14/22

Date



Trent Danowski, Deputy Director
Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

7/15/2022

Date

CONCLUSION OF LAW

The conduct as described in paragraph 3 above constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*), OAR 584-020-0030(2)(b) (*Skill in communicating with administrators, students, staff parents, and other patrons*) OAR 584-020-0040(4)(o) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(A) (*Not demonstrating or expressing professionally inappropriate interest in a student's personal life*), OAR 580-020-0035(1)(c)(C) (*Reporting to the educator's supervisor if the educator has reason to believe a student is or may be becoming romantically attached to the educator*), and OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(D) (*Honoring appropriate adult boundaries with students in conduct and conversations at all times*).

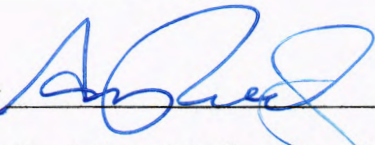
The Commission's authority to impose discipline in this matter is based upon ORS 342.175.

ORDER

The Commission adopts and incorporates herein the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, and based thereon, imposes a Public Reprimand on Dean M. Wright's Oregon educator license.

Issued and dated this 14 day of October 2022.

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

By  _____

Dr. Anthony Rosilez, Executive Director