

1 and entry of the Stipulated Final Order below; (vi) he states that no promise or
2 representation has been made to induce him to sign this Stipulation and Final Order;
3 and (vii) he has consulted with an attorney regarding this Stipulation and Final Order
4 and has been fully advised with regard to his rights thereto or waives any and all rights to
5 consult with an attorney prior to entering into this Stipulation and Final Order and
6 issuance and entry of the Stipulated Final Order below.

7
8 **STIPULATION OF FACTS**
9

- 10 1. The Commission has licensed Freysinger since July 12, 2006. Freysinger currently
11 holds a Professional Teaching License with endorsements in Biology (PK-12),
12 Chemistry (PK-12), Health Sciences CTE (PK-12) and Integrated Science (PK-12).
13 The license was issued on June 22, 2021 and expires on June 21, 2026. During all
14 relevant times, Freysinger was employed by the Hood River County School District
15 (HRCSD).
16
- 17 2. On February 8, 2022, TSPC received a cross-report from the Oregon Department of
18 Human Services (DHS) alleging misconduct by Michael G. Freysinger, a licensed
19 HRCSD educator. In addition to the DHS report, TSPC also received an Educator
20 Misconduct Report from the HRCSD as well as a two misconduct reports from
21 parents of students in his class; all alleging the same behavior. Specifically, the
22 reports alleged that Freysinger made inappropriate sexual comments to students in
23 class which was a dual college credit Medical Terminology as part of a Health Science
24 Career Technical Education training program, as one of the pre-requisites for the
25 Medical Assistant Program with the local community College. It was reported that
26 Freysinger had talked in detail about his own sexual history, his current sexual
27 activity, and had solicited inappropriate feedback from students about their own
28 sexual experiences. The HRCSD became aware of the allegations on February 4,
29 2022, and immediately placed Freysinger on paid administrative leave. An
30 investigation into this matter was conducted by both the HRCSD and the Hood River
31 County Sheriff's Office (HRCISO).
32
- 33 3. The allegations were substantiated after completion of an investigation by HRCSD
34 and HRCISO. Thirteen direct student witnesses confirmed that Freysinger engaged in

1 sexually explicit, highly inappropriate personal and private conversations with
2 students during class from January 1, 2022 to March 14, 2022.

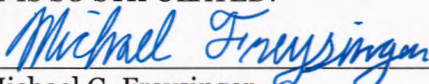
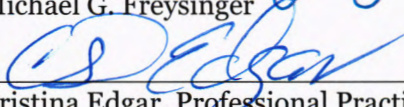
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4 In addition, it was documented that Freysinger shared very personal and
5 inappropriate information about himself to students. The information shared included
6 information about his own sexual history, past abusive relationships, personal
7 healthcare experiences, and specific details about his own body. The HRCSD found
8 Freysinger to be in violation of GBNAA/JHFF district policy. Law enforcement
9 completed their investigation and determined that no criminal charges would be filed.

- 10
11 4. TSPC interviewed Freysinger on May 9, 2022 in the company of his attorney, Martin
12 Dolan. During the interview Freysinger admitted to sharing personal information
13 with students but reported that none of these stories were relayed with any sort of
14 sexual intent. Freysinger reported that he shared these stories and examples in the
15 context of healthcare, directly related to the content of the class. The intent was to
16 treat all 12 body systems with equal emphasis on whole-person care regarding male
17 & female anatomy, and to share experiences he had being a caretaker married to a
18 paralyzed spouse. Freysinger says he never shared anything about his personal
19 sexual experiences. Freysinger admits to sharing about his surgical history whenever
20 those exact subjects were covered in the textbook and admitted to discussing he and
21 his sexual partner's experiences with IUDs when a student pulled him aside and
22 asked him questions. Freysinger admitted to talking about past personal trauma he
23 had endured from prior relationships as well as family drug use but stated that this
24 was discussed in response to questions regarding the importance of mental health
25 and seeking support from healthcare professionals. Freysinger also noted that this
26 type of sharing seemed in line, at the time, with district norms and healthcare
27 professional guest speakers. During this same year, HRCSD had a guest speaker
28 come for staff training on diversity, equity, and inclusion in which they addressed the
29 entire high school staff regarding their own personal experiences surrounding
30 transgenderism, trauma, personal healthcare experiences including a full
31 hysterectomy, and abuse they suffered in school. Additionally, many healthcare
32 professionals shared their own personal healthcare experiences as both patients and
33 providers. These professionals always answered tough questions from students,
34 honoring their questions regardless to the gender or body system from a healthcare
35 perspective. The school district always tries to model in trainings what they would

1 like to see in their classrooms, so when Freysinger shared personal examples, the
2 intent was to create comprehensible input and connections for students who might
3 otherwise struggle in challenging classes. TSPC investigative staff asked if Freysinger
4 had encouraged students to masturbate and he responded by saying absolutely not,
5 but he did talk about how females have internal genitalia and men have external, so
6 familiarity with this anatomy is easier for men. This can be a healthcare challenge
7 for common procedures like catheterization for women. Freysinger did encourage all
8 of his students to be familiar with both anatomies, as shown in the textbook. He
9 reported that he had a brief conversation with a few “select” female students about
10 the importance of knowing their own anatomy since they were asking specific
11 questions that Freysinger couldn’t answer while they were studying a female genital
12 model in the lab. Freysinger acknowledge he shared a memory with the class about a
13 humorous episode of the TV show “Sex in the City” where all the female lead
14 character used mirrors to look at their own genitals. Freysinger was also asked if he
15 had cited HIPAA and if he told students that because of HIPAA they couldn’t not
16 share the conversations they had in class with parents or staff. Freysinger stated that
17 the HIPAA training, which was listed in every syllabus multiple times, and was meant
18 to help students be considerate about privacy around personal healthcare
19 experiences shared for any of the people in class, including fellow students, guest
20 speakers, teachers, on-site older adult residents during class field trips, college field
21 trips, or any other groups that we might work with. This training was attempted in
22 all the healthcare CTE program classes, as well as HOSA club, since we were trying to
23 build trust in our community for healthcare internships and job shadows which did
24 not yet exist. HIPAA concerns were a primary barrier to access to healthcare
25 facilities for our students, especially our most underserved. In terms of the
26 classroom, Freysinger always encouraged students to talk about the class at home,
27 and frequently was told by students that this happened often. Freysinger says that
28 his intentions were always to honor the needs of the healthcare professionals who
29 had trained him, to try and open opportunities for students to gain access to facilities
30 where patient contact would eventually occur. Trainings like HIPAA, treating all 12
31 body systems equally, answering all student questions even when they were
32 sometimes challenging, were all rooted in good intention. We were offering these
33 advanced healthcare classes to students who did not meet the academic pre-
34 requisites, and who were 2-3 years younger than students at the college. In

1 retrospect, this may have not been a good idea. In the future, Freysinger says he will
2 not share personal stories related to his body or any healthcare experiences as a
3 patient or provider. Further, Freysinger removed his own Health CTE endorsement
4 from his teaching license since he says he would never want to teach these classes
5 again. Freysinger had taught chemistry for almost 20 years prior without any
6 incidents, and he feels that the content, age group, and first attempt at making a new
7 Health CTE program contributed heavily to his failure to effectively teach these
8 classes.

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10 IT IS SO STIPULATED:

11		<u>8/15/2023</u>
12	Michael G. Freysinger	Date
13		<u>12/11/2023</u>
14		Date
15	Cristina Edgar, Professional Practices Director	
16	Teacher Standards and Practices Commission	

17 **CONCLUSION OF LAW**

18 The conduct described above constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS
19 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(1)
20 (*Recognize the worth and dignity of all persons and respect for each individual*), OAR
21 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*), OAR 584-020-0025(2)(e) (*Using district*
22 *lawful and reasonable rules and regulations*); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(o) as it
23 incorporates OAR 584-020-0035(1)(b) (*Refrain from exploiting professional*
24 *relationships with any student for personal gain, or in support of persons or issues*), OAR
25 584-020-0035(1)(c)(A) (*Not demonstrating or expressing professionally inappropriate*
26 *interest in a student's personal life*), and OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(D) (*Honoring*
27 *appropriate adult boundaries with students in conduct and conversations at all times*).

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

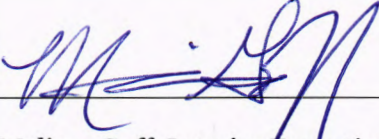
31 **ORDER**

32 The Commission adopts and incorporates herein the above findings of fact and
33 conclusions of law, and based thereon, imposes a suspension of Freysinger's Oregon
34 educator license for a period of thirty (30) days **starting June 21, 2023**. Additionally,
35 the commission imposes a term of Probation for not less than two (2) years.

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Issued and dated this 2 day of February, 2024.

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

By  _____
Melissa Goff, Interim Executive Director