2 3	BEFORE THE TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF OREGON
4 5 6 7	In the Matter of the ) STIPULATION OF FACTS Educator License of ) AND FINAL ORDER OF MAURINE A. RUZEK ) PUBLIC REPRIMAND
8	On February 18, 2022, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission
9	(Commission) received information from Oregon's Department of Human Services
10	(DHS) alleging that during the 2021-22 school year, Maurine A. Ruzek (Ruzek) used
11	unnecessary physical force on students and yelled at students.
12	After review of the matters alleged, Ruzek and the Commission agree that their
13	respective interests, together with the public interest, are best served by a stipulation to
14	certain facts, the imposition of a Public Reprimand of Ruzek's license.
15	This Order sets forth the facts upon which the parties have agreed and the
16	sanction to be imposed. In entering into this stipulation, Ruzek waives the right to a
17	hearing to contest the findings of fact, conclusions of law and order set forth below.
18	By signing below, Ruzek acknowledges, understands, stipulates, and agrees to the
19	following: (i) she has been fully advised of her rights to notice and a hearing to contest
20	the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order set forth below, and fully and finally
21	waives all such rights and any rights to appeal or otherwise challenge this Stipulation of
22	Facts and Final Order of Public Reprimand (Stipulation and Final Order); (ii) this
23	Stipulation and Final Order is a public document and disclosed to the public upon
24	request by the Commission; (iii) this Stipulation and Final Order is contingent upon and
25	subject to approval and adoption by the Commission. If the Commission does not
26	approve and adopt this Stipulation and Final Order, then neither Ruzek nor the
27	Commission are bound by the terms herein; (iv) she has fully read this Stipulation and
28	Final Order, and understands it completely; (v) she voluntarily, without any force or
29	duress, enters into this Stipulation and Final Order and consents to issuance and entry o
30	the Stipulated Final Order below; (vi) she states that no promise or representation has
31	been made to induce her to sign this Stipulation and Final Order; and (vii) she has
32	consulted with an attorney regarding this Stipulation and Final Order and has been fully
33	advised with regard to her rights thereto, or waives any and all rights to consult with an
34	attorney prior to entering into this Stipulation and Final Order and issuance and entry o
35	the Stipulated Final Order below.

1 STIPULATION OF FACTS 2 The Commission has licensed Ruzek since June 5, 1984. Ruzek holds a 3 Professional Teaching License, with endorsements in Special Education – 4 Communication Disorders (PK-12) and Special Education - Generalist (PK-12), 5 valid from June 25, 2019, through June 24, 2024. During all relevant times, 6 Ruzek was employed by the Corvallis School District (CSD). 7 8 2. On November 13, 2009, the CSD provided Ruzek a letter regarding her 9 intimidating manner and physical assisting of students. The letter detailed 10 multiple expectations such as Ruzek being professional with students and colleagues, learning strategies for physical restraint, and learning strategies for 11 12 managing special need students and staff. The district also commended Ruzek for 13 contributions to students and that her work was highly respected. 14 15 On November 25, 2019, the CSD issued Rusek a Letter of Reprimand for being 16 physically aggressive and loud with a student. The letter detailed multiple 17 expectations such as Ruzek appropriate touching, not using her hands to move or guide students, remaining calm when interacting with students, monitoring the 18 19 tone and volume of her voice, and being professional in performing her duties. 20 21 4. On February 18, 2022, the Commission received information from DHS reporting 22 allegations Ruzek may have engaged in conduct that may be considered gross neglect of duty and/or gross unfitness. Specifically, the DHS information 23 contained allegations that during the 2021-22 school year, Ruzek had numerous 24 25 interactions with students involving her improper physical contact and restraint to control students and/or her yelling at students. DHS closed the case at 26 27 screening. 28 5. Investigation found that during the 2021-22 school year, Ruzek forcefully 29 directed students into their seats with her hands by pushing against their 30

shoulders. Ruzek directed staff to keep students in their chairs by having staff hold the back of diapers, pants, or beltloops of pants. Ruzek grabbed a student's

partially elevated arms and hands and repeatedly pulled them down to the

student's side in an attempt to teach the student that grabbing was not

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appropriate. Ruzek pushed a wheelchair into a student's leg as a warning that the student needed to move their legs. Ruzek gave unwanted hugs to students. Ruzek used her hands with enough force to make student's turn their heads. Ruzek pushed students.

Investigation found that during the 2021-22 school year, Ruzek invaded a student's space and yelled at the student. Ruzek frequently yelled at students to get their attention, or to correct them, and to get other peoples' attention.

On March 3, 2022, Ruzek was placed on administrative leave. On March 30, 2022, Ruzek was given a Letter of Reprimand from the CSD.

IS SO STIPULATED:

HERE

Maurine A. Ruzek

7 | 30 | 2024

Date | 8/5 | 2024

Cristina Edgar, Director of Professional Practices Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

CONCLUSION OF LAW

The conduct described in section five (5) 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 584-020-0020(2)(d) (Skill in the supervision of students), OAR 584-020-0025(2)(e) (Using district lawful and reasonable rules and regulations); and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(d) (Unreasonable physical force against students, fellow employees, or visitors to the school, except as permitted under ORS 339.250).

The conduct described in section six (6) 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 584-020-0020(2)(d) (Skill in the supervision of students), and OAR 584-020-0030(2)(b) (Skill in communicating with administrators, students, staff, parents, and other patrons).

1	The Commission's authority to impose discipline in this matter is based upon ORS
2	342.175.
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4	ORDER
5	The Commission adopts and incorporates herein the above findings of fact and
6	conclusions of law, and based thereon, imposes a Public Reprimand upon Maurine A.
7	Ruzek's Oregon educator license.
8	<b>A</b> 1
9	Issued and dated this $\frac{\lambda}{}$ day of August 2024.
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1	TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION
2	STATE OF OREGON
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4	100 - 1/1/
5	By All
6	Melissa Coff, Interim Executive Director