

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

In the Matter of the)	STIPULATION OF FACTS AND
Educator License of)	FINAL ORDER OF
PAUL J. LABARRE)	THIRTY-DAY SUSPENSION AND
)	PROBATION

On April 27, 2022, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) received a School District Misconduct Report from the Woodburn School District (WSD). The report alleged possible professional misconduct on the part of licensed educator, Paul J. LaBarre, (LaBarre).

After review of the matters alleged, LaBarre 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 Thirty-Day (30) Suspension of Licensure and one year of Probation.

This Order sets forth the facts upon which the parties have agreed and the sanction to be imposed stipulates that there are sufficient facts contained in the Commission's files and records to support the findings of fact and conclusions of law set forth below. In entering into this stipulation, LaBarre waives the right to a hearing to contest the findings of fact, conclusions of law and order set forth below.

By signing below, LaBarre 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 a Thirty-Day Suspension (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 LaBarre 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 LaBarre since August 16, 2001. LaBarre holds a Professional Teaching License, with endorsements in English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) (PK-12), Elementary- Multiple Subjects (PK-12), and Legacy Middle Level (PK-12) valid from December 13, 2021, through December 12, 2026. During all relevant times, LaBarre was employed by the Woodburn School District (WSD).
2. On April 27, 2022, the Commission received a School District Misconduct Report from the WSD alleging LaBarre allowed students at French Prairie Middle School taking the state English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) to use a predeveloped sheet of scratch paper during testing which resulted in the invalidation of some of the student's scores and several students requiring to be retested.
3. Investigation found that in advance of an ELPA test, LaBarre taught students to use mnemonics to help them write complex sentences, and coached them to write the mnemonic on scratch paper handed out during testing. On March 9, 2022, at the testing room for the ELPA, LaBarre distributed student scratch paper with the mnemonics written down to assist them during the test. LaBarre was present during this time. Students then put the mnemonic on the scratch paper during testing. He then collected the scratch paper to return to students in the testing room when they completed testing. During investigation, LaBarre noted that testing occurred over multiple days due to changes in protocol and technical challenges in the testing room, which contributed to the confusion. LaBarre acknowledged that he failed to keep the scratch papers in an organized and secure fashion.

4. During Commission investigation, LaBarre documented the 2022 ELPA testing facility configuration was different compared to prior years and testing occurred over multiple days, with LaBarre collecting student scratch paper and tests at the end of each period, and then returning the paper to an unsecured storage location. LaBarre failed to maintain such materials in a secure and organized manner as required by testing protocols. LaBarre's conduct was found to be careless but not intentional.

5. The Oregon Department of Education reviewed the matter and determined staff engaged in testing improprieties violating the 2021-2022 Test Administration Manual (TAM) which referencing OAR 581-022-2100(4he)(g). All students subsequently retested and passed the ELPA exam.

6. LaBarre was previously the subject of a school district investigation regarding testing improprieties. On April 8, 2015, LaBarre received a letter of reprimand for breach of test security when he took photos of student's computer testing screens which showed secure test items and the names of students and later emailed those photos to eight (8) individuals to outline LaBarre's concerns about the ELPA21 accessibility for students.

IT IS SO STIPULATED:

Paul J. LaBarre

Paul J. LaBarre

8/2/2024

Date

Cristina Edgar

Cristina Edgar, Professional Practices Director
Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

8/6/2024

Date

CONCLUSION OF LAW

The conduct described 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)(b) (*Skill in the application of assessment data to assist individual student growth*), OAR 584-020-0020(2)(e) (*Skill in differentiating instruction*), OAR 584-020-0025(2)(e) (*Using district lawful and reasonable rules and regulations*).

FINAL ORDER

The Commission adopts and incorporates herein the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, and based thereon, imposes a Thirty-Day Suspension of License upon Paul LaBarre's Oregon educator license.

Furthermore, the Commission imposes a one (1) year period of probation upon LaBarre's licensure to commence upon reinstatement of LaBarre's suspended license, and subject to the following condition:

1. LaBarre shall comply with the Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance of Oregon Educators under Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter 584, Division 020.

Issued and dated this 21 day of August, 2024.

TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

STATE OF OREGON

By  _____
Melissa Goff, Interim Executive Director