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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 SUSPENSION  
DARREN M. BLAND ) AND PROBATION

On September 21, 2022, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) received a report from the Corvallis School District (District) indicating Darren M. Bland (Bland) may have committed an act of gross neglect of duty and/or gross unfitness. Specifically, the district reported Bland stole medication for a student which was stored at Crescent Valley High School, and Bland was under the influence of intoxicants at school.

After review of the matters alleged, Bland 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 twelve (12) month suspension and a period of Probation for three (3) years.

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

By signing below, Bland 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 Suspension and Probation (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 Bland 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



1 consulted with an attorney regarding this Stipulation and Final Order and has been fully  
2 advised with regard to his rights thereto, or waives any and all rights to consult with an  
3 attorney prior to entering into this Stipulation and Final Order and issuance and entry of  
4 the Stipulated Final Order below.

#### 5 6 **STIPULATION OF FACTS**

- 7 1. The Commission has licensed Bland since August 6, 2001. Bland held an  
8 Administrative License, with an endorsement in Principal (PK-12), valid from  
9 January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2022. Bland also held a Professional  
10 Teaching License, with an endorsement in English Language Arts (PK-12), valid  
11 from June 11, 2017, through January 1, 2023. On January 7, 2023, Bland  
12 submitted applications for renewal of his teacher and administrator licenses.  
13 Bland's applications were held pending the outcome of this matter. During all  
14 relevant times, Bland was employed by the Corvallis School District (CSD).
- 15 2. On September 21, 2022, the Commission received a misconduct report from the  
16 CSD indicating Bland may have committed acts which constitute gross neglect of  
17 duty and/or gross unfitness. The CSD alleged that on September 16, 2022, Bland  
18 stole a student's medication, which was stored at Crescent Valley High School  
19 (CVHS). The CSD also alleged Bland was under the influence of intoxicants at  
20 CVHS during work hours on at least one occasion in September 2022.
- 21 3. Investigation found that during the COVID-19 lockdowns of 2020, Bland became  
22 concerned about effectively educating students remotely and one of Bland's  
23 immediate family members passed. Bland was emotionally distraught and sought  
24 medical assistance. Bland was prescribed medication to assist in managing his  
25 situation.
- 26 4. Investigation found on September 19, 2022, CSD staff learned a student's medication,  
27 which was secured in a medicine locker in the health office at CVHS, was missing.  
28 District officials reviewed video of the area and identified Bland as being in the area  
29 on September 16, 2022. The District reported the matter to local law enforcement.
- 30 5. Investigation by law enforcement found that on September 16, 2022, Bland entered  
31 the CVHS health office on multiple occasions. During an interview, Bland admitted  
32 that on one those occasions, he entered the health office, broke into the locked  
33 medicine locker, and stole Adderall pills from student medication bottles. On another



- 1 of those occasions, Bland admitted entering the health office and removing the empty  
2 bottles of student medication.
- 3 6. During law enforcement's initial response to the missing medication at CVHS on  
4 September 19, 2022, the responding officer believed Bland was under the influence of  
5 intoxicants when he observed Bland in the hallway at the school. Bland later admitted  
6 to misusing his medication at school during work hours on that date.
- 7 7. On September 19, 2022, Bland was placed on administrative leave pending the  
8 outcome of the District's investigation into the matter. On September 23, 2022, Bland  
9 resigned in lieu of termination.
- 10 8. On September 26, 2022, Bland was charged in Benton County Circuit Court with four  
11 criminal counts related to theft of the medication. On May 19, 2023, Bland entered a  
12 plea agreement and was convicted of one misdemeanor count of Official Misconduct  
13 in the First Degree and one misdemeanor count of Theft in the Third Degree. Bland  
14 was sentenced to ninety (90) days jail, suspended; five (5) years bench probation;  
15 fined; required to undergo substance abuse treatment; and required to submit to  
16 random drug tests for cause by the court, law enforcement or a treatment provided.
- 17 9. On September 29, 2022, days after Bland resigned his position with the CSD, he  
18 voluntarily began inpatient substance abuse treatment. After successfully completing  
19 this treatment in late November 2022, Bland enrolled in an intensive outpatient  
20 treatment program, which he completed in June 2023.

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22 IT IS SO STIPULATED:

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27 Darren M. Bland

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25 1/3/24  
26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 Date

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30 \_\_\_\_\_  
31 Cristina Edgar, Director of Professional Practices  
32 Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

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30 \_\_\_\_\_  
31 Date

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33 **CONCLUSION OF LAW**

34 Darren M. Bland's conduct as described in section four (4) above constitutes  
35 gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it  
36 incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*), OAR 584-020-  
37 0025(2)(e) (*Using district lawful and reasonable rules and regulations*); and OAR 584-

1 020-0035(3)(a) (*Maintain the dignity of the profession by respecting and obeying the*  
2 *law, exemplifying personal integrity and honesty*).

3 Darren M. Bland's conduct as described in section six (6) above constitutes gross  
4 neglect of duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it  
5 incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*), OAR 584-020-  
6 0025(2)(e) (*Using district lawful and reasonable rules and regulations*), and OAR 584-  
7 020-0040(4)(g) (*Appearing on duty or at any district-sponsored activity while under*  
8 *the influence of alcohol or any controlled substance*).

9 Darren M. Bland's conduct as described in section eight (8) above constitutes  
10 gross unfitness in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(c); OAR 584-020-0040(5)(c) (*Conviction*  
11 *of violating any federal, state or local law*) and OAR 584-020-0040(5)(d) (*Admission*  
12 *of or engaging in acts constituting criminal conduct, even in the absence of a*  
13 *conviction*).

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

16  
17 **ORDER**


18 The Commission adopts and incorporates herein the above findings of fact and  
19 conclusions of law, and based thereon, imposes a twelve (12) month suspension upon  
20 Darren M. Bland's Oregon educator licenses. Upon reinstatement, there will be a three  
21 (3) year period of Probation on Bland's Oregon educator license(s).

22 Furthermore, Bland is subject to the following conditions prior to reinstatement  
23 of his Oregon educator license(s):

- 24 1. Bland shall comply with the Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance of  
25 Oregon Educators under Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter 584, Division  
26 020.

27  
28 Issued and dated this 2 day of February, 2024.

29  
30 **TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION**  
31 **STATE OF OREGON**

32  
33 By   
34 \_\_\_\_\_  
Melissa Goff, Interim Executive Director



