

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 |
| STEPHANIE J. EWING |) | SIXTY-DAY SUSPENSION AND |
| |) | PROBATION |

On January 13, 2023, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) received a School District Misconduct Report from the Morrow County School District (MCSD). The report alleged possible professional misconduct on the part of licensed educator, Stephanie J. Ewing, (Ewing).

After review of the matters alleged, Ewing 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 Sixty-Day (60) Suspension of Licensure and one (1) 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, Ewing waives the right to a hearing to contest the findings of fact, conclusions of law and order set forth below.

By signing below, Ewing acknowledges, understands, stipulates, and agrees to the following: (i) she has been fully advised of her 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 Sixty-Day Suspension and One-Year 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 Ewing nor the Commission are bound by the terms herein; (iv) she has fully read this Stipulation and Final Order, and understands it completely; (v) she 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) she states that no promise or representation has been made to induce her to sign this Stipulation and Final Order; and (vii) she has consulted with an attorney regarding this Stipulation and Final Order and

has been fully advised with regard to her 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.

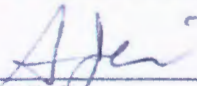
STIPULATION OF FACTS

1. The Commission has licensed Ewing since August 9, 2001. Ewing held a Professional Administrator License, with an Administrator (PK-12) endorsement, valid from November 28, 2018, through December 29, 2023. During all relevant times, Ewing was employed by the Morrow County School District (MCSD).
2. On January 13, 2023, the Commission received a school district misconduct report from the MCSD alleging that Ewing engaged in professional misconduct on or about December 8, 2023, while working in the capacity as Principal of Windy River Elementary School. The report alleged Ewing inappropriately contacted a ten-year old student with disabilities by physically assisting the student out from under a desk by grabbing the student's arms. The report also alleged that on December 14, 2022, Ewing inappropriately contacted the same student when they were attempting to flee campus by pushing a door towards the student's body, and then using the weight of her body to prevent the student from fleeing for several seconds.
3. Investigation found that on December 8, 2022, a ten-year-old student with disabilities, refused to come out from under his desk at the Windy River Elementary School library. After directing the student back to his desk, the student continually failed to comply. Ewing then grabbed the student's arms, and to pull the student out from under the desk and assist him to his desk. The student once again refused and Ewing let go of the student. When the student's mother arrived at school Ewing encouraged her to take the student to a medical appointment by giving the mother money for transportation costs. MCSD found Ewing's actions violated school restraint and seclusion policy. MCSD found Ewing acted in a manner inconsistent with Oregon approved CPI Restraint and Seclusion training which Ewing received on November 16, 2021, and that Ewing

acted in a manner inconsistent with ORS 339.291 (OAR 581-021-0550, OAR 581-021-0553).

4. On December 14, 2022, the same student involved in paragraph 3 attempted to flee campus. The student ran toward the exit but stopped in a vestibule between the inner and outer doors to the school, blocking a staff member from opening the inner doors. Ewing arrived at the vestibule area and after a few seconds Ewing forced the doors open with her body which caused a door to hit the student on the front of his body. Ewing then grabbed the student by the hood of his sweatshirt, near the student's neck, and stood in front of another set of doors in the vestibule in an attempt to stop the student from fleeing. Ewing then wrapped her arms around the student in an attempt to gain control, but the student escaped her hold. MCSD found Ewing's actions violated school restraint and seclusion policy. MCSD found Ewing acted in a manner inconsistent with Oregon approved CPI Restraint and Seclusion training which Ewing received on November 16, 2021, and that Ewing acted in a manner inconsistent with ORS 339.291 (OAR 581-021-0550, OAR 581-021-0553).
5. On or about December 15, 2023, Ewing submitted her resignation to the Morrow County School District in lieu of termination.

IT IS SO STIPULATED:



Stephanie J. Ewing

8/14/2024

Date



Cristina Edgar, Professional Practices Director
Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

8/16/24

Date

CONCLUSION OF LAW

The conduct described above in paragraph three (3) 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 584-020-0030(2)(b) (*Skill in communicating with administrators, students, staff, parents, and other patrons*); and 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 above in paragraph four (4) 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 584-020-0030(2)(b) (*Skill in communicating with administrators, students, staff, parents, and other patrons*); and 584-020-0040(4)(d) (*Unreasonable physical force against students, fellow employees, or visitors to the school, except as permitted under ORS 339.250*).

FINAL ORDER

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

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

1. Ewing shall complete as a condition of probation a Commission approved restraint training course within the first year of probation.

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

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5 Issued and dated this 18 day of October, 2024.

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

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11
12 By  _____

13 ~~Melissa Goff, Interim Executive Director~~
 Rae Ette Newman, Chair of TSPC

