

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

In the Matter of the Educator)
License of)
JEFFREY L. GEORGE)

DEFAULT ORDER OF
SUSPENSION AND PROBATION

On August 21, 2024, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Jeffrey L. George (George) in which the Commission charged him with Gross Neglect of Duty. The Notice was sent via U.S. First Class and U.S. Certified Mail, USPS Tracking Number 9589 0710 5270 2162 7857 23, to the address on file with the Commission. The Notice designated the Commission file as the record for purposes of proving a prima facie case. The Notice of Opportunity of Hearing, dated August 21, 2024 and signed by Melissa Goff, Interim Executive Director, stated:

“IF A REQUEST FOR HEARING IS NOT RECEIVED WITHIN THIS 21-DAY PERIOD, YOUR RIGHT TO A HEARING SHALL BE CONSIDERED WAIVED UNLESS YOUR FAILURE TO REQUEST A HEARING WAS BEYOND YOUR REASONABLE CONTROL. IF YOU DO NOT REQUEST A HEARING, WITHDRAW YOUR REQUEST FOR HEARING, IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR AT A HEARING, OR NOTIFY THE COMMISSION THAT YOU WILL NOT APPEAR AT HEARING, THE COMMISSION WILL ADOPT AN ORDER OF DEFAULT WHICH MAY INCLUDE THE REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF YOUR LICENSE OR OTHER DISCIPLINE.”

On September 26, 2024, the TSPC Investigative staff received an email from you. In the email, you requested that your right to a hearing on this matter be waived, and that the case be allowed to go into default. The Commission, therefore, finds George to be in default and enters the following findings of fact, conclusions of law, and final order, based on the files and records of the Commission concerning this matter.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Commission has licensed George since September 24, 2021. George holds a Limited Teaching License with endorsements Physical Education – Dance Only (PK-12), valid from September 24, 2021 through September 24, 2024. During all relevant times, George was employed by Portland Public Schools (PPS).

1 2. On January 26, 2023, the Commission received a School District Misconduct Report
2 from PPS involving George, a dance teacher at da Vinci Arts Middle School. The
3 complaint alleged that on January 12, 2023, students reported to staff that George
4 was slurring his words, falling, and saying odd things. Staff responded to George’s
5 classroom, and as they were escorting him out of the classroom, they could smell
6 alcohol on his person. In addition, staff had to assist George in walking, due to him
7 stumbling and nearly falling.

8
9 3. Investigation by PPS and TSPC substantiated the following:

- 10
- 11 • A total of fourteen (14) students provided written statements detailing their
12 interactions and observations of Geroge on January 12, 2023.
 - 13 • Students reported that Geroge did not appear to be himself.
 - 14 • Students reported that Geroge was slurring his words, and stumbling.
 - 15 • A student reported that Geroge “looked really untidy like his hair was kind of
16 messy and he had a weird look in his eyes.”
 - 17 • A students reported that Geroge was very “woozy” and wasn’t walking
18 straight.
 - 19 • Students reported that Geroge was crying, repeating himself, and told the
20 class that he loved them despite them not liking him.
 - 21 • Students reported his behaviors to another teacher at the school.
 - 22 • Staff responded to George’s classroom and reported that he “smelled heavily
23 of mouthwash with mixed alcohol.”
 - 24 • Staff witnessed Geroge “slurring your words, crying, and stumbling on stage.”
 - 25 • Geroge was placed on leave on January 12, 2023.
 - 26 • During an investigative interview with PPS administration on January 20,
27 2023, Geroge denied drinking alcohol or being under the influence of drugs
28 on January 12, 2023.
 - 29 • Geroge admitted during the interview that he had been drinking “well into the
30 night and took sleeping pills” the night before and stated that it could have
31 carried over into the morning at school.

- George resigned his position with PPS on January 20, 2023.

4. TSPC investigative staff mailed George certified and non-certified letters on January 31, 2024, and again on June 12, 2024, requesting that he participate in an interview regarding this matter. Both sets of letters were mailed to the last known mailing address George provided to TSPC, and the letters were not returned as undeliverable. On June 28, 2024, TSPC investigative staff emailed George at the last email address he provided to TSPC. Attached to the email were copies of the previous mailed letters as well as a deadline of July 12, 2024 to contact TSPC for an interview. A reminder email of the upcoming deadline was sent again on July 9, 2024. George did not contact TSPC before the above-mentioned deadline.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The conduct described in sections two (2) and (3) 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 584-020-0025(2)(e) (Using district lawful and reasonable rules and regulations), and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(g) (Appearing on duty or at any district-sponsored activity while under the influence of alcohol or any controlled substance).

The conduct described in section four (4) above constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(5) (Use professional judgment), and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(p) (Subject to the exercise of any legal right or privilege, failure or refusal by an educator under investigation to respond to request for information, to furnish or to participate in interviews with a Commission representative relating to a Commission investigation).

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

1 **FINAL ORDER**

2 The Commission hereby issues a sixty (60) day suspension and three (3) years
3 probation upon George’s Oregon educator license. Furthermore, George will be required to
4 complete a Drug and Alcohol Evaluation from a licensed/certified provider prior to
5 reinstatement.

6
7 IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 27 day of September, 2024.

8 TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

9 By: 
10 _____
11 Melissa Goff, Interim Executive Director
12

13 NOTICE OF APPEAL OR RIGHTS

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15 YOU ARE ENTITLED TO JUDICIAL REVIEW OF THIS ORDER. JUDICIAL REVIEW
16 MAY BE OBTAINED BY FILING A PETITION FOR REVIEW WITHIN 60 DAYS FROM
17 THE SERVICE OF THIS ORDER. JUDICIAL REVIEW IS PURSUANT TO THE
18 PROVISIONS OF ORS 183.482 TO THE OREGON COURT OF APPEALS.