

1 **BEFORE THE TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION**
2 **OF THE STATE OF OREGON**

3 In the Matter of the)
4 Educator License of)
5 GREGORY M. WILCOX)
6
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STIPULATION OF FACTS AND
FINAL ORDER OF SUSPENSION

8 On February 6, 2023, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission
9 (Commission) received an internal complaint alleging possible professional misconduct
10 on the part of licensed educator, Gregory M. Wilcox (Wilcox). The complaint alleges that
11 while teaching at North Medford High School (NMHS) Wilcox offered students \$100.00
12 to complete the Cinnamon TikTok challenge. On or about January 6, 2023, a student
13 accepted your offer and agreed to do the cinnamon challenge. Upon attempting the
14 challenge, the student required medical attention from the school nurse.

15 After review of the matters alleged, Wilcox and the Commission agree that their
16 respective interests, together with the public interest, are best served by a stipulation to
17 certain facts and the imposition of a thirty (30) day suspension of Wilcox's Oregon
18 educator's license.

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

24 By signing below, Wilcox acknowledges, understands, stipulates, and agrees to
25 the following: (i) he has been fully advised of his rights to notice and a hearing to contest
26 the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order set forth below, and fully and finally
27 waives all such rights and any rights to appeal or otherwise challenge this Stipulation of
28 Facts and Final Order of Suspension and Probation (Stipulation and Final Order); (ii)
29 this Stipulation and Final Order is a public document and disclosed to the public upon
30 request by the Commission; (iii) this Stipulation and Final Order is contingent upon and
31 subject to approval and adoption by the Commission. If the Commission does not
32 approve and adopt this Stipulation and Final Order, then neither Wilcox nor the
33 Commission are bound by the terms herein; (iv) he has fully read this Stipulation and
34 Final Order, and understands it completely; (v) he voluntarily, without any force or
35 duress, enters into this Stipulation and Final Order and consents to issuance and entry of

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1 the Stipulated Final Order below; (vi) he states that no promise or representation has
2 been made to induce him to sign this Stipulation and Final Order; and (vii) he has
3 consulted with an attorney regarding this Stipulation and Final Order and has been fully
4 advised with regard to his rights thereto, or waives any and all rights to consult with an
5 attorney prior to entering into this Stipulation and Final Order and issuance and entry of
6 the Stipulated Final Order below.

7 8 **STIPULATION OF FACTS**

9 1. The Commission has licensed Wilcox since September 21, 2017. Wilcox currently
10 holds a Preliminary CTE Teaching License with endorsements in Culinary CTE.
11 The license was issued on July 28, 2020 and expires on March 4, 2024. During
12 all relevant times, Wilcox was employed by the Medford School District. (MSD).

13
14 2. On February 6, 2023, Chief Human Resources Officer Janel Reed of the MSD
15 filed a school misconduct report with TSPC. The report alleged that Wilcox, a
16 teacher at NMHS had offered students \$100.00 to complete the cinnamon
17 TikTok challenge. The report alleged that Wilcox had made the offer to students
18 on or about January 6, 2023. Student HC, a special needs student accepted the
19 offer and agreed to do the cinnamon challenge. The misconduct report alleges
20 that once HC accepted the challenge, Wilcox measured out an amount of
21 cinnamon on a spoon and handed to HC. HC immediately began to choke and
22 struggled to breathe. The report states that student HC received medical
23 attention from the school nurse.

24
25 On January 9, 2023, TSPC received a DHS cross report about this same incident
26 that cited the same facts listed above.

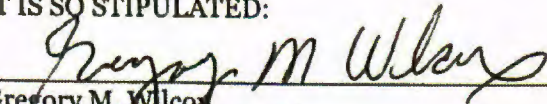
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28 3. According to district documentation and a TSPC investigation, the following
29 occurred relevant to the above-listed complaint:

- 30
31 • The TikTok Cinnamon Challenge is a popular food consumption challenge
32 that has gone viral on the internet in recent years. Participants in the
33 challenge eat a spoonful of ground cinnamon in under 60 seconds without
34 drinking any fluids or water. The challenge is potentially dangerous as a

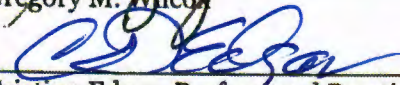
- 1 result of the cinnamon powder coating the inside of the mouth, throat and
2 lungs. Coughing, gagging, vomiting, difficulty breathing are side effects of
3 participating in this challenge.
- 4 • On January 6, 2023, after using cinnamon in the preparation of Bananas
5 Foster, some students started talking about the TikTok Cinnamon Challenge.
6 Wilcox repeatedly stated that it could not be done and, according to Wilcox,
7 jokingly offered to pay students \$100.00 if they were successful. Wilcox
8 explained that, at the time, he was unaware of any serious health risks.
 - 9 • NMHS Assistant Principal Mayra Garcia (Garcia) was in the classroom when
10 Wilcox made the offer and heard him tell the students "it's impossible.
11 Cinnamon is insoluble. No one can do the cinnamon challenge."
 - 12 • One student, HC, seemed particularly intent on trying. HC is a special needs
13 student in Wilcox's culinary program. Wilcox explained that he decided to
14 measure out the cinnamon and provide it to HC in class so that the challenge
15 would be done in a controlled environment.
 - 16 • HC began coughing and spitting after she tried swallowing the cinnamon. HC
17 said that "it hurts to breath." Wilcox was at her side at the sink and told her
18 that "I told you no one can do it."
 - 19 • NMHS Assistant Principal Mayra Garcia (Garcia) was also in the classroom,
20 and also assisted HC after she attempted to swallow the cinnamon.
 - 21 • Garcia took HC outside to get some fresh air and then started to head to the
22 nurse's station.
 - 23 • Wilcox checked in with HC during the next class period and told her that if
24 her parents had any questions, they should call.
 - 25 • On January 31, 2023, the MSD issued Wilcox a letter of reprimand and on-
26 day unpaid suspension for offering students \$100 to complete the cinnamon
27 challenge and giving student HC the spoonful of cinnamon.
- 28
- 29 4. On May 2, 2023, TSPC investigative staff interviewed Wilcox via telephone. Also
30 present during the interview was his attorney, Margaret Olney. During the
31 interview Wilcox took responsibility for his actions and confirmed the events
32 listed above. Wilcox reported that he was only kidding about the bet and had no
33 intention of paying or receiving \$100. Wilcox reported that he was only trying to
34 provide a teachable moment to the students; that cinnamon is insoluble. Wilcox

1 reported that he was unaware of how dangerous the cinnamon challenge was
2 until after this incident when he did some research. Wilcox reported that after he
3 discovered how dangerous it was, he decided he would never give cinnamon to a
4 student again.

5
6
7 IT IS SO STIPULATED:

8 
9 _____
10 Gregory M. Wilcox

9-27-2024
Date

11 
12 _____
13 Cristina Edgar, Professional Practices Director
Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

10/1/2024
Date

14
15 **CONCLUSION OF LAW**

16 *The conduct described above constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation*
17 *of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-20-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-*
18 *0010(5) (Use professional judgment), OAR 584-020-0020(2)(d) (Skill in the*
19 *supervision of students), OAR 584-020-0025(2)(e) (Using district lawful and*
20 *reasonable rules and regulations).*

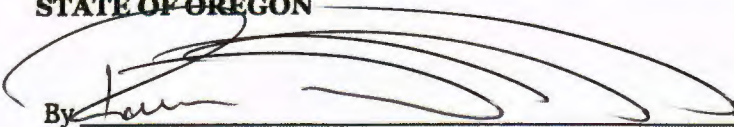
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22
23 The Commission's authority to impose discipline in this matter is based upon
24 ORS 342.175.

25 **ORDER**

26 The Commission adopts and incorporates herein the above findings of fact and
27 conclusions of law, and based thereon, imposes a suspension of Wilcox's Oregon
28 educator license for a period of thirty (30) days.

29
30 Issued and dated this 18 day of October, 2024.

31 **TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION**
32 **STATE OF OREGON**

33
34 By  _____

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

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