

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
ROBIN D. SMITH	)	DENIAL OF APPLICATION AND
	)	SUSPENSION

On March 20, 2023, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) received a School District Misconduct Report from the Hillsboro School District (HSD), indicating possible professional misconduct on the part of licensed educator, Robin D. Smith (Smith).

After review of the matters alleged, Smith 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 Suspension of sixty (60) days and Denial of current application.

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

By signing below, Smith 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 Public Reprimand (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 Smith 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.

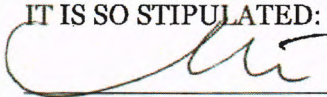
### **STIPULATION OF FACTS**

1. The Commission has licensed Smith since June 20, 2021. Smith held a Restricted Substitute Teaching License, with endorsements in Substitute any Specialty (PK-12), valid from January 11, 2023, through June 30, 2023. During all relevant times, Smith was employed by ESS Substitute Services and worked in the Hillsboro School District (HSD).
2. On March 20, 2023, TSPC received a School District Misconduct Report from the Director of Human Resources for the HSD, Brian Haats. The report alleged that Smith, a contracted substitute teacher with ESS who was working at Poynter Middle School (PMS) in the HSD had engaged in professional misconduct. The misconduct alleged in the report indicated that Smith openly discussed her candidacy for an elected school board position with the HSD with students and staff. Additionally, the report alleges that Smith wrote a note to a student's parent and sent the note home with the student. The note indicated that the parents should vote for Smith in the upcoming election and asked that the parents tell other people in the community about her candidacy and encourage them to vote for her.
3. Investigation by the HSD and TSPC concluded the following:
  - On February 28, 2023, a teacher at PMS reported to ESS and HSD administration that Smith had made "negative" statements about the district, and told students that she was running for a HSD School Board position in the upcoming election.
  - PMS Principal Jon Pede contacted Smith at PMS and escorted her out of the building. As he was escorting Smith off PMS grounds, she spoke to him about how she was running for the school board and how she needed the money that came with the position to refurbish her house.
  - A few days after this incident, HSD administration obtained a hand-written letter that was written by Smith that was sent home with a student (student

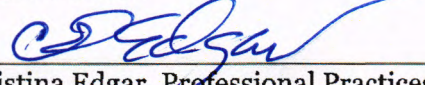
K) in a class that Smith had substituted for. In the letter, Smith tells student K's parents that student K does not belong in a "special education" class and belongs in a "regular classroom" on a "504 plan." Additionally, Smith also ask student K's parents to help "get the word out" about her candidacy for a HSD school board position, and asked for their vote, and the votes of any of their family or friends.

- On March 20, 2023, Smith employment with ESS was terminated as a result of the events listed above as well as "continuing issues" with her work performance.
4. On September 21, 2023, Smith was interviewed by TSPC investigative staff via telephone. During the interview Smith was not represented by an attorney. During the interview Smith indicated that she remembered being escorted off HSD grounds by a Principal Pede for discussing her campaign for a HSD School Board position. Aside from this, Smith reported that she did not remember much else about the events that day. Smith did report that she remembered writing the letter to student K's parents and sending it home with student K. Smith told TSPC investigative staff that her intentions for sending the letter home were to inform student K's parents that student K did not need to be in special education because he had good math skills and higher overall grades than other students in the same class. Smith admitted that she did not have any specific training on assessing a student's abilities as it relates to special education but stated that she still felt strongly that student K needed assistance under the school's 504 plan. Smith also admitted to TSPC staff that she had solicited votes for her school board campaign from K's parents in the letter and also asked them to "spread the word" about her campaign. Smith reported that she couldn't remember if she had ever sent similar letters home with other students. When asked if she was at school when she wrote the letter to K's parents, Smith told TSPC investigative staff "probably, yeah, yeah." Smith was asked during the interview if she had ever made any negative comments about the HSD to staff, parents or teachers and she reported that she had engaged in a conversation with a HSD special education teacher once but reported that she couldn't remember the "gist" of the conversation now.

IT IS SO STIPULATED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robin D. Smith

1/7/2024  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Christina Edgar, Professional Practices Director  
Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

1/10/2024  
Date

**CONCLUSION OF LAW**

The conduct described above constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*), OAR 584-020-0025(2)(e) (*Using district lawful and reasonable rules and regulations*) and OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(D) (*Honoring appropriate adult boundaries with students in conduct and conversations at all times*).

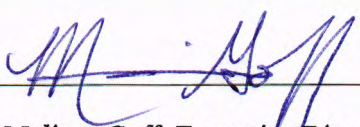
The Commission’s authority to impose discipline in this matter is based upon ORS 342.175.

**ORDER**

The Commission adopts and incorporates herein the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, and based thereon, imposes a sixty (60) day suspension on Robin D. Smith’s Oregon educator license. Additionally, the commission will deny Smith’s pending licensure application with TSPC and will require that Smith get a mental health evaluation. The results of the evaluation will be shared with TSPC before Smith can apply for licensure after her period of suspension is served.

Issued and dated this 2 day of February, 2024.

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

By   
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Melissa Goff, Executive Director