BEFORE THE TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION 1 2 OF THE STATE OF OREGON 3 In the Matter of the STIPULATION OF FACTS, 4 **Teaching License of**) AND FINAL ORDER 5 RHONDA LYNN STECKER) OF REPRIMAND 6 On May 1, 2009, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) 7 8 internally referred Rhonda Lynn Stecker (Stecker) for teaching outside of her endorsement area. 9 After review of the matters alleged, Stecker and the Commission agree that their respective interests, together with the public interest, are best served by a stipulation to certain 10 facts and imposition of a Public Reprimand on her teaching license. 11 This document sets forth the facts upon which the parties have agreed and the stipulated 12 sanction to be imposed. Stecker stipulates that there is sufficient evidence in the Commission's 13 files and records to support the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order set forth below. 14 15 By signing below, Stecker acknowledges, understands, stipulates, and agrees to the 16 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 17 such rights and any rights to appeal or otherwise challenge this Stipulation of Facts, Order of 18 19 Reprimand (Stipulation and Final Order); (ii) this Stipulation and Final Order is a public 20 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 21 22 Commission does not approve and adopt this Stipulation and Final Order, then neither Stecker 23 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, 24 enters into this Stipulation and Final Order and consents to issuance and entry of the Stipulated 25 Final Order below; (vi) she states that no promises or representation has been made to induce 26 her to sign this Stipulation and Final Order; and (vii) she has consulted with an attorney 27 regarding this Stipulation and Final Order and has been fully advised with regard to her rights 28 thereto, or waives any and all rights to consult with an attorney prior to entering into this 29 Stipulation and Final Order and issuance and entry of the Stipulated Final Order below. This 30 stipulation is contingent upon approval and adoption of the Order by the Commission. If the 31 Commission does not adopt this Order, neither Stecker nor the Commission are bound by these 32 33 Stipulations and Stecker retains all rights to a hearing on the allegations. 34 111 35 ///

STIPULATION OF FACTS

- The Commission has licensed Stecker since January 4, 1990. Stecker currently holds a
 Standard Teaching License, with endorsements in Basic ESOL, Standard Reading, and
- 4 Standard Social Studies, valid from September 10, 2008 to May 22, 2014. Stecker also holds
- 5 an Initial I School Counselor License issued November 10, 2008, that expires on May 22,
- 6 2012. During all relevant times, Stecker was employed by the Clatskanie School District.
- 7 2. Between 2003 and 2006 Stecker served as a language arts teacher. Stecker's license was not
- 8 valid for service in this area. During this time Stecker held a Standard Teaching License
- 9 with endorsements in Basic ESOL, Standard Reading and Standard Social Studies.
- 10 3. Stecker applied for ESOL and Reading Specialists positions throughout Columbia County for
- the 2003-2004 school year. Stecker was solicited by the Clatskanie School District to teach
- language arts at Clatskanie High School. Stecker took the language arts assignment based
- on assurances from the District that it would seek the appropriate permit to allow her to
- teach out-of-field. She also anticipated being allowed to transfer into a reading specialist
- position when the position became vacant due to a retirement. Stecker requested a transfer
- to a reading specialist position for the 2004-2005 school year, which was denied. When her
- 17 transfer request was denied, the District continued to assign Stecker to high school language
- 18 arts.

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- 19 4. On October 18, 2005 the Commission received from Stecker's employing school district, a
- paper application for a Conditional Assignment Permit (CAP) to allow Stecker to teach
- 21 language arts. On January 19, 2006 the Commission informed the district that the
- documentation submitted was not acceptable and would need to be resubmitted
- electronically. The Commission was not informed at that time that Stecker had been
- teaching out of field for the prior two school years.
- 25 5. The Clatskanie School District did not submit the necessary paperwork for the CAP until
- halfway through the time Stecker was improperly assigned. Stecker explained that she
- 27 believed that her employer had completed the necessary paperwork for the assignment, and
- that she could work outside of her endorsement, so long as she was working toward adding
- the new endorsement to her license. However, Stecker did not take the Praxis English
- 30 Literature examination to qualify for the Language Arts endorsement until more than two
- years after she started teaching outside her licensed field.
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1 2	IT IS 89 STIPULATED: Rhonda Lynn Stecker Date
3	Rhonda Lynn Stecker Date
4 5	Tulban (hamberlain) 3-2-11
6 7	Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director Date Teacher Standards and Practices Commission
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10	CONCLUSION OF LAW
11	Rhonda Lynn Stecker served outside of the endorsement area of her license. This
12	conduct constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-
13	0040(4)(r) (Knowingly working without a license), and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it
14	incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(5) (Use professional judgment) and OAR 584-020-
15	0040(4)(0) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0035(2)(a) (Apply for, accept, offer, or assign a
16	position of responsibility only on the basis of professional qualifications, and will adhere to the
17	conditions of a contract or the terms of the appointment).
18	The Commission's authority to impose discipline in this matter is based upon ORS
19	342.175.
20	ORDER
21	The Commission adopts and incorporates herein the above findings of fact and
22	conclusion of law, based thereon, hereby imposes a Public Reprimand on the Teaching License
23	of Rhonda Lynn Stecker.
24	IT IS SO ORDERED this 2 day of February , 2011.
25	TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION
26 27 28	By: Tuckous (hamberlain)
/K	Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director