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

In the Matter of the) STIPULATION OF FACTS AND
Teaching License of) FINAL ORDER OF SUSPENSION
ROBERT RUSSEL JESSOP) AND PROBATION

On or about January 31, 2011, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) received a report from Medford School District indicating that Robert Jessop (Jessop) was suspected of using marijuana on school property during the workday.

Jessop fully cooperated with the Commission's investigation in this matter. After review of the matters alleged, Jessop and the Commission agree that their respective interests, together with the public interest, are best served by a stipulation to certain facts, the imposition of a six-month suspension followed by a four (4) year probation.

By signing below, Jessop acknowledges, understands, stipulates, and agrees to the following: (i) he has been fully advised of his 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 Suspension (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 Jessop nor the Commission are bound by the terms herein; (iv) he has fully read this Stipulation and Final Order, and understands it completely; (v) he 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) he states that no promise or representation has been made to induce him to sign this Stipulation and Final Order; and (vii) he has consulted with an attorney regarding this Stipulation and Final Order and has been fully advised with regard to his 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. Jessop understands that the probation will be subject to specific terms and conditions.

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1 **STIPULATION OF FACTS**

- 2 1. The Commission has licensed Robert Russell Jessop since March 23, 1994.
3 Jessop's current Standard Teaching License with an endorsement in Basic Social
4 Studies, and Standard Elementary, issued on May 18, 2010, expires on May 17,
5 2015. During all relevant times Jessop was employed by the Medford School
6 District as a full time teacher until February 15, 2011.
- 7 2. At Medford, Mr. Jessop coached the Brain Bowl from 1999-2011, served on the
8 SITE Committee from approximately 1996 to 2002, served as Social Science
9 Department chair for approximately two years, served as a curriculum team
10 leader from about 2002 to 2011 and worked as facilitator of the Positive Behavior
11 and Intervention Support committee from 2006 to 2011. He also worked as a
12 Master Teacher to five different student teachers.
- 13 3. Jessop is a long term (17 year) educator who has no previous disciplinary issues
14 with TSPC or the Medford School District. Jessop is considered an esteemed
15 educator, and is widely regarded as a gifted teacher.
- 16 4. On January 4 and January 5, 2011, the district alleged that Jessop smoked
17 marijuana in a faculty bathroom inside McLoughlin Middle School, in the
18 Medford School District. Jessop took a drug test at the request of the district,
19 which returned a positive result for marijuana.
- 20 5. Per district orders that he provide a statement under threat of termination,
21 Jessop admitted smoking marijuana up to 10 occasions in the faculty bathroom
22 and retrieved the marijuana from his vehicle located in the faculty parking lot.
23 Jessop was not found to have distributed, displayed or shared marijuana with any
24 parent, student or coworker.
- 25 6. Jessop underwent an entry evaluation with Addiction Recovery Center in
26 February 2011 and successfully completed the three-month rehabilitation
27 recommended by the evaluator.
- 28 7. Jessop continues to attend Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and a Marijuana
29 Anonymous meeting group he started in Southern Oregon.

30 IT IS SO STIPULATED:

31 
32 _____
33 Robert Russell Jessop

1/30/12

Date

34 
35 _____
36 Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director
Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

1-24-12

Date

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2 **CONCLUSION OF LAW**

3 On January 4, and January 5, 2011, Jessop smoked marijuana in a faculty
4 bathroom inside McLoughlin Middle School, in the Medford School District. The
5 marijuana was retrieved from Jessop's vehicle which was parked on school grounds.
6 Jessop was asked to take a drug test on January 5, 2011, which returned a positive result
7 for marijuana. This conduct constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS
8 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use*
9 *professional judgment*); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(g) (*Appearing on duty or at any*
10 *district-sponsored activity while under the influence of alcohol or any controlled*
11 *substance*). This conduct also constitutes gross unfitness in violation of ORS
12 342.175(1)(c); OAR 584-020-0040(5)(e) (*Admission of or engaging in acts constituting*
13 *criminal conduct, even in the absence of a conviction*), specifically, OAR 584-020-
14 0040(1)(yy) (*ORS 475.864(4) -- Possession of less than 1 ounce of marijuana within*
15 *1,000 feet of school*).

16 Initially, Jessop was not honest with school officials. When confronted by school
17 administrators regarding this behavior Jessop denied engaging in such conduct. In
18 subsequent interviews with the district Jessop admitted using marijuana on school
19 grounds, and estimated that you had done so no more than ten times. This conduct
20 constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-
21 0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*); and
22 OAR 584-020-0040(4)(c) (*Knowing falsification of any document or knowing*
23 *misrepresentation directly related to licensure, employment, or professional duties*).

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

26 ///

1 **ORDER**

2 The Commission hereby adopts and incorporates herein the above findings of fact,
3 conclusions of law, and based thereon hereby imposes a six-month suspension upon
4 Jessop's Standard Teaching License as follows:

5 Robert Russell Jessop's Standard Teaching License is hereby suspended for six
6 months following the adoption of this order.

7 Furthermore, the Commission imposes a four (4) year probation upon Jessop to
8 commence the date of adoption of this order and subject to the following terms
9 and conditions of probation:

- 10 1. At the end of his suspension period, Jessop will submit documentation that
11 he completed all treatment recommended by the Addiction Recovery Center.
12 2. Jessop shall, upon request, submit a negative urine sample as a condition of
13 reinstatement of his license.
14 3. Jessop shall comply with the Standards for Competent and Ethical
15 Performance of Oregon Educators under Oregon Administrative Rules
16 Chapter 584, Division 020.

17 Violation of any term or condition of probation shall constitute an independent basis for
18 the Commission to revoke Jessop's teaching license or otherwise impose discipline, after
19 first providing Jessop with notice and opportunity for hearing

20 ///

21 Issued and dated this 7th day of February, 2012.

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

24 By Victoria Chamberlain
25 Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director
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