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Teacher Standards & Practices Commission

BEFORE THE TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

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OF THE STATE OF OREGON

3	In the Matter of the)	STIPULATION OF FACTS,
4	Teaching License of)	SURRENDER AND REVOCATION
5	SUSAN MARIE COUGHLAN)	OF LICENSURE

6 On or about February 17, 2009, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission
 7 (Commission) received a report from Randy Shild, Superintendent, Tillamook School District,
 8 indicating that Susan Marie Coughlan (Coughlan) disclosed that she had an intimate and
 9 inappropriate relationship with a female student some years prior.

10 After review of the matters alleged, Coughlan and the Commission agree that their
 11 respective interests, together with the public interest, are best served by a stipulation to certain
 12 facts, Surrender and Revocation of Coughlan's Oregon Teaching License.

13 This document sets forth the facts upon which the parties have agreed and the stipulated
 14 sanction to be imposed. Coughlan stipulates that there is sufficient evidence in the
 15 Commission's files and records to support the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order set
 16 forth below.

17 By signing below, Coughlan acknowledges, understands, stipulates, and agrees to the
 18 following: (i) she has been fully advised of her rights to notice and a hearing to contest the
 19 findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order set forth below, and fully and finally waives all
 20 such rights and any rights to appeal or otherwise challenge this Stipulation of Facts and Final
 21 Order of Surrender and Revocation of Licensure (Stipulation and Final Order); (ii) this
 22 Stipulation and Final Order is a public document and disclosed to the public upon request by the
 23 Commission; (iii) this Stipulation and Final Order is contingent upon and subject to approval
 24 and adoption by the Commission. If the Commission does not approve and adopt this
 25 Stipulation and Final Order, then neither Coughlan nor the Commission are bound by the terms
 26 herein; (iv) she has fully read this Stipulation and Final Order, and understands it completely;
 27 (v) she voluntarily, without any force or duress, enters into this Stipulation and Final Order and

1 consents to issuance and entry of the Stipulated Final Order below; (vi) she states that no
2 promises or representation has been made to induce her to sign this Stipulation and Final
3 Order; and (vii) she has consulted with an attorney regarding this Stipulation and Final Order
4 and has been fully advised with regard to her rights thereto, or waives any and all rights to
5 consult with an attorney prior to entering into this Stipulation and Final Order and issuance and
6 entry of the Stipulated Final Order below. This Order sets forth the facts upon which the parties
7 have agreed and the sanction to be imposed. Coughlan stipulates that there are sufficient facts
8 contained in the Commission's files and records to support the findings of fact and conclusions
9 of law set forth below. In entering into this stipulation, Coughlan waives the right to a hearing
10 to contest the findings of fact, conclusions of law and order set forth below.

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STIPULATION OF FACTS

16 1. The Commission has licensed Coughlan since May 26, 1987. Coughlan currently holds a
17 Basic Teaching License with an endorsement in Basic Health Education and Basic
18 Physical Education, valid July 14, 2008 through July 13, 2011. On July 13, 2011, TSPC
19 received Coughlan's timely application for renewal and her license status was adjusted to
20 "Expiration Pending".

21 2. On February 17, 2009 the Commission received information from the Tillamook School
22 District indicating Coughlan disclosed to the Superintendent that she had a sexually
23 intimate and inappropriate relationship with a juvenile student some years prior.

24 3. Investigation by law enforcement affirmed Coughlan's disclosure. The District Attorney
25 declined prosecution in the case stating that the statute of limitations had expired.

26 4. Coughlan declined to be interviewed by the Commission regarding these allegations.

1 IT IS SO STIPULATED:

2 Susan M. Coughlan
3 Susan Marie Coughlan

4-24-12
Date

4 Victoria Chamberlain
5 Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director
6 Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

4-17-12
Date

7 **CONCLUSION OF LAW**

8 Susan Marie Coughlan engaged in sexual conduct with a student. This conduct
9 constitutes Gross Neglect of Duty in violation of OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates
10 OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*), OAR 584-020-0040(4)(o) as it
11 incorporates OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(D) (*Honoring appropriate adult boundaries with*
12 *students in conduct and conversations at all times*); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(f) (*Any sexual*
13 *conduct with a student*), and Gross Unfitness in violation of OAR 584-020-0040(5)(e)
14 (*Admission of or engaging in acts constituting criminal conduct, even in the absence of a*
15 *conviction*), specifically ORS 163.415 (*Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree*). The Commission's
16 authority to impose discipline in this matter is based upon ORS 342.175.

17 **ORDER**

18 The Commission adopts the above Stipulation of Facts, accepts the licensure surrender
19 and revokes the Basic Teaching License of Susan Marie Coughlan.

20 IT IS SO ORDERED this 20th day of July, 2012.

21 TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

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23 By: Victoria Chamberlain
24 Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director