## 1 BEFORE THE TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION 2 OF THE STATE OF OREGON 3 In the Matter of the STIPULATION OF FACTS AND 4 **Educator License of** ) FINAL ORDER OF REPRIMAND 5 KEITH EDWARD MEEUWSEN ) AND PROBATION 6 7 On March 19, 2014, the Commission received a report from the St. Helens School 8 District indicating that Keith Edward Meeuwsen (Meeuwsen) had violated professional 9 standards and local policy when his teaching methods created an emotionally unsafe 10 environment. 11 After review of the matters alleged, Meeuwsen and the Commission agree that 12 their respective interests, together with the public interest, are best served by a 13 stipulation to certain facts and the imposition of a public reprimand and a period of 14 probation. 15 By signing below, Meeuwsen acknowledges, understands, stipulates, and agrees 16 to the following: (i) he has been fully advised of his rights to notice and a hearing to 17 contest the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order set forth below, and fully and 18 finally waives all such rights and any rights to appeal or otherwise challenge this 19 Stipulation of Facts and Final Order of Reprimand and Probation (Stipulation and Final 20 Order); (ii) this Stipulation and Final Order is a public document and disclosed to the 21 public upon request by the Commission; (iii) this Stipulation and Final Order is 22 contingent upon and subject to approval and adoption by the Commission. If the 23 Commission does not approve and adopt this Stipulation and Final Order, then neither 24 Meeuwsen nor the Commission are bound by the terms herein; (iv) he has fully read this 25 Stipulation and Final Order, and understands it completely; (v) he voluntarily, without 26 any force or duress, enters into this Stipulation and Final Order and consents to issuance 27 and entry of the Stipulated Final Order below; (vi) he states that no promise or 28 representation has been made to induce him to sign this Stipulation and Final Order; 29 and (vii) he has consulted with an attorney regarding this Stipulation and Final Order 30 and has been fully advised with regard to his rights thereto, or waives any and all rights 31 to consult with an attorney prior to entering into this Stipulation and Final Order and 32 issuance and entry of the Stipulated Final Order below. 33 STIPULATION OF FACTS 34 1. Keith Edward Meeuwsen has been licensed by the Commission since June 17, 1986. 35 Meeuwsen's Standard Teaching License, with an endorsement in Standard Social Studies

- 1 (020), is valid from August 28, 2013, through August 27, 2018. During all relevant times, 2 Meeuwsen was employed by the St. Helens School District.
  - 2. On March 19, 2014, the Commission received information from the St. Helens School District indicating Meeuwsen may have committed acts which constitute gross neglect of duty. Commission and District investigations determined the following conduct:
    - a. On or about January 26, 2014, while beginning a new semester of Meeuwsen's citizenship course, Meeuwsen openly questioned a Latina student (ML) about her immigration status. Meeuwsen explained the goal of the lesson was to help students empathize and understand the challenges immigrants face to gain citizenship. Meeuwsen's questioning of ML included asking her if she was "legal", if she had a "green card", if she had a "visa", and what she was doing to become a citizen. This dialog took place in front of the entire classroom and caused significant discomfort and embarrassment for ML.
    - b. During the course of the 2014 investigation, another Hispanic student, PG, complained that she felt set apart in class by how Meeuwsen discussed pay disparity and how female Hispanics were statistically the poorest of all the minority / gender combinations. Meeuwsen explained that he was trying to teach a lesson on inequality and the need for equity, and was leading to a discussion of affirmative action. Students reported Meeuwsen stated something like "so you don't want to be a Hispanic in America", looked over at PG and said "Sorry P". PG stated that Meeuwsen's conduct made her feel embarrassed and uncomfortable in Meeuwsen's classroom.
    - c. School officials reported overhearing Meeuwsen, during the 2012-2013 school year, make a comment in the classroom that Caucasian students need to make more babies in the future because the Asian and Hispanic populations are rapidly growing while the Caucasian population is shrinking. School officials met with Meeuwsen after this and provided counsel.
  - 3. Meeuwsen has sought out learning opportunities to help him improve his methods of teaching and discussing sensitive but important topics without causing discomfort or embarrassment to any students. Information indicates Meeuwsen took steps to repair any damage his conduct may have caused in his teaching relationship with involved students.

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2 3	IT IS SO STIPULATED:		
4 5 6 7 8 9	Keith Edward Meeuwsen,  Keith Edward Meeuwsen,  Victoria Chambeilain, Executive Director Teacher Standards and Practices Commission  7/1/16  Date  7/1/16  Date		
11	CONCLUSION OF LAW		
12	Keith Edward Meeuwsen's conduct described above constitutes gross neglect of		
13	duty in violation ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR		
14	584-020-0010(1) (Recognize the worth and dignity of all persons and respect for each		
15	individual), OAR 584-020-0010(5) (Use professional judgment), OAR 584-020-		
16	0025(1) (The competent educator is a person who understands students and is able to		
17	relate to them in constructive and culturally competent ways. The competent educator		
18	establishes and maintains good rapport), OAR 584-020-0025(2)(e) (Using district		
19	lawful and reasonable rules and regulations), and OAR 584-020-0030(2)(b) (Skill in		
20	communicating with administrators, students, staff, parents, and other patrons).		
21	The Commission's authority to impose discipline in this matter is based upon		
22	ORS 342.175.		
23	ORDER		
24	The Commission adopts and incorporates herein the above findings of fact and		
25	conclusions of law, and based thereon, imposes a Public Reprimand on Keith Edward		
26	Meeuwsen's Teaching License.		
27	Furthermore, the Commission imposes a period of one (1) year of probation upon		
28	Meeuwsen to commence from the date this order is signed by the Commission and		
29	subject to the following conditions:		

1	1.	Meeuwsen is directed to successfully complete a Commission approved training
2		course in the area of "Cultural Competency" within ninety days of issuance of this
3		order.
4	2.	Meeuwsen is required to submit a letter to the Commission both requesting
5		termination of probation and describing what was learned from the sanction and
6		the required training and how it will change future behavior.
7	3⋅	Meeuwsen shall comply with the Standards for Competent and Ethical
8		Performance of Oregon Educators under Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter
9		584, Division 020.
10		<i>y</i>
11		Issued and dated this // day of for day.
12 13		TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION STATE OF OREGON
14 15 16		By Wictoria Chamberlain, Executive Director

## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I served the foregoing Stipulation of Facts and Final Order of Reprimand and Probation, certified by me as such, by mailing U.S. First Class Mail and U.S. Certified Mail — Return Receipt Requested, addressed to:

Keith Edward Meeuwsen 52024 SE Icenogle Loop Scappoose, OR 97056-2543

DATED this

day of April, 2016.

By:

Patty Sheldon

Investigative Assistant

DO: Sheldon