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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 REPRIMAND  
PAULA VAN BEURDEN ) AND PROBATION

On or about May 9, 2011, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) received a letter from the Sheridan School District reporting that Paula Van Beurden (Van Beurden) engaged in sexual activity with a colleague on school premises.

After review of the matters alleged, Van Beurden 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 Public Reprimand a four year probationary period on Van Beurden’s teaching license.

By signing below, Van Beurden 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 Probation (Stipulation and Final Order); (ii) this Stipulation and Final Order is a public document and disclosed to the public upon request to 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 Van Beurden 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

1 consulted with an attorney regarding this Stipulation and Final Order and has been fully  
2 advised with regard to her rights thereto, or waives any and all rights to consult with an  
3 attorney prior to entering into this Stipulation and Final Order and issuance and entry of  
4 the Stipulated Final Order below.

5 **STIPULATION OF FACTS**

- 6 1. The Commission has licensed Van Beurden since February 18, 2005. Van Beurden  
7 currently holds an Initial I Teaching License with an endorsement in Multiple Subjects  
8 Self Contained (ECE/ELM), issued January 16, 2009, and valid until January 15, 2012.  
9 During all relevant times Van Beurden was employed with the Sheridan School District.
- 10 2. On May 5, 2011 Faulconer-Chapman School was hosting an open house in connection  
11 with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant funded before/after school program for which Van Beurden  
12 was the lead teacher.
- 13 3. Van Beurden was helping set up for the open house and went to the school's old  
14 gymnasium building which was then only used for storage, to retrieve supplies for the  
15 evening event. Van Beurden sent a text message from the old gym to a male unlicensed  
16 staff member employed to help with the after school program to assist her to retrieve  
17 supplies for the open house.
- 18 4. When the male staff member arrived he and Van Beurden engaged in sexual activity in  
19 the storage area of the old gym.
- 20 5. While Van Beurden was in the old gym, her spouse arrived unannounced at the school.  
21 He asked Van Beurden's colleagues where she was. Van Beurden's colleagues advised  
22 her spouse that Van Beurden and the male staff member had gone to the old gym to get  
23 supplies. The spouse proceeded to the old gym and found Van Beurden and her co-  
24 worker engaged in sexual activity.
- 25 6. Van Beurden's husband threatened Van Beurden and her co-worker and then returned  
26 to the school building where he announced to the assembled students, staff, and parents,

1 his wife's activity with her coworker. Van Beurden's husband created enough of a  
2 commotion to require the response of law enforcement to the school.  
3 7. This was the first such incident by Van Beurden, and there is no evidence to suggest that  
4 this was a pattern of similar conduct by Van Beurden on school ground or during school  
5 time.

6 IT IS SO STIPULATED:

7 Paula Van Beurden Date 10-17-11  
8 Paula Van Beurden  
9  
10 Victoria Chamberlain Date 10-10-11  
11 Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director  
12 Teacher Standards and Practices Commission  
13

14 **CONCLUSION OF LAW**

15 Van Beurden's conduct with a colleague on school grounds and during employment time  
16 constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(n) as it  
17 incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*), OAR 584-020-0040(4)(b)  
18 (*Knowing and substantial unauthorized use of employment time or school resources for*  
19 *private purposes*), and OAR 584-030-0040(4)(o) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0035(3)(a)  
20 (*Maintain the dignity of the profession by respecting and obeying the law, exemplifying*  
21 *personal integrity and honesty*).

22 Van Beurden's conduct led to a significant disturbance on school grounds. Pursuant to  
23 OAR 584-020-0045(5) (*If the misconduct was open and notorious or had negative effects on*  
24 *the public image of the school*), the Commission may consider this as part of the sanction in  
25 determining a violation of OAR 584-020-0040. The Commission is aware that the subsequent  
26 commotion although stemming from Van Beurden's action, was largely caused by Van Beurden's  
27 husbands' reaction to the incident, and may not have been entirely foreseeable by Van Beurden.

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**ORDER**

The Commission adopts and incorporates herein the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, and based thereon, imposes a Public Reprimand on Paula Van Beurden's Initial I Teaching License.

The Commission furthermore places Van Beurden on probation for a period of four (4) years from the date of this order subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Van Beurden will maintain appropriate professional boundaries with her colleagues on school grounds and during employment time.
2. Van Beurden will give appropriate consideration to her personal life to ensure an appropriate professional separation between issues outside of school and work time.
3. Van Beurden shall comply with the Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance of Oregon Educators under Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter 584, Division 020.

Failure to comply with these terms constitutes an independent basis for the Commission to revoke Van Beurden's license or otherwise impose discipline, after first providing her with notice and opportunity for hearing.

Issued and dated this 9<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2011.

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

By Victoria Chamberlain  
Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director