

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

3 In the Matter of the) STIPULATION OF FACTS,
4 Teaching License of) FINAL ORDER OF REPRIMAND
5 LAWRENCE THOMAS WETJEN) AND PROBATION

6 On or about June 15, 2009, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission
7 (Commission) received a report from the Butte Falls School District, indicating that Lawrence
8 Thomas Wetjen (Wetjen) arrived for work approximately 80 minutes late and smelling of alcohol.

9 After review of the matters alleged, Wetjen and the Commission agree that their
10 respective interests, together with the public interest, are best served by a stipulation to certain
11 facts and the imposition of Public Reprimand and four years probation.

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

16 By signing below, Wetjen acknowledges, understands, stipulates, and agrees to the
17 following: (i) he has been fully advised of his rights to notice and a hearing to contest the
18 findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order set forth below, and fully and finally waives all
19 such rights and any rights to appeal or otherwise challenge this Stipulation of Facts, Order of
20 Reprimand and Probation (Stipulation and Final Order); (ii) this Stipulation and Final Order is a
21 public document and disclosed to the public upon request by the Commission; (iii) this
22 Stipulation and Final Order is contingent upon and subject to approval and adoption by the
23 Commission. If the Commission does not approve and adopt this Stipulation and Final Order,
24 then neither Wetjen nor the Commission are bound by the terms herein; (iv) he has fully read
25 this Stipulation and Final Order, and understands it completely; (v) he voluntarily, without any
26 force or duress, enters into this Stipulation and Final Order and consents to issuance and entry
27 of the Stipulated Final Order below; (vi) he states that no promise or representation has been
28 made to induce him to sign this Stipulation and Final Order; and (vii) he has consulted with an

1 attorney regarding this Stipulation and Final Order and has been fully advised with regard to his
2 rights thereto, or waives any and all rights to consult with an attorney prior to entering into this
3 Stipulation and Final Order and issuance and entry of the Stipulated Final Order below. This
4 stipulation is contingent upon approval and adoption of the Order by the Commission. If the
5 Commission does not adopt this Order, neither Wetjen nor the Commission are bound by these
6 Stipulations and Wetjen retains all rights to a hearing on the allegations.

7 **STIPULATION OF FACTS**

- 8 1. The Commission has licensed Wetjen since March 8, 2007. Wetjen currently holds an
9 Initial I Teaching License authorized to teach Special Education (K-12), issued March 9,
10 2010 and valid through December 13, 2013.
- 11 2. On the morning of June 10, 2009 Wetjen reported to work late. Wetjen was described
12 as incoherent, with blood shot eyes and smelling of alcohol. Upon his late arrival, a
13 meeting was held at the District office at which Wetjen was suspended for the day.
- 14 3. Wetjen returned home after being suspended and consumed alcohol, ate lunch, then
15 napped. On the evening of June 10, 2009 Wetjen coached a girl's summer basketball
16 league at Prospect High School. Wetjen smelled of alcohol while coaching.
- 17 4. Thereafter Wetjen promptly acknowledged he had a drinking problem and sought
18 treatment. He has been compliant with his treatment since then.

19 **IT IS SO STIPULATED AND AGREED TO:**

20 Lawrence T. Wetjen
21 Lawrence Thomas Wetjen

10-23-10
Date

22 Victoria Chamberlain
23 Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director
24 Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

10-12-10
Date

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CONCLUSION OF LAW

Lawrence Thomas Wetjen appeared on duty under the influence of alcohol. Later that same day, Wetjen coached an athletic event at a high school in the district, while under the influence of alcohol. This conduct constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(g) (*Appearing on duty or at any district-sponsored activity while under the influence of alcohol or any controlled substance*), and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*). The Commission has the authority to impose discipline in this matter under ORS 342.120 through 342.430 and OAR Chapter 584.

FINAL ORDER

The Commission adopts and incorporates herein the above findings of fact and conclusion of law, based thereon, hereby imposes a Public Reprimand and four year probation on the licensure of Lawrence Thomas Wetjen.

Issued and dated this 5th day of November, 2010.

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

By 
Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director