

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

In the Matter of the)	STIPULATION OF FACTS AND
Educator License of)	FINAL ORDER OF REPRIMAND
STEVEN M. STEBBINS)	AND PROBATION

On or about January 5, 2017, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) received a report from the South Umpqua School District indicating possible professional misconduct on the part of licensed educator, Steven M. Stebbins (Stebbins).

After review of the matters alleged, Stebbins 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 Public Reprimand, and a period of probation.

This Order sets forth the facts upon which the parties have agreed and the sanction to be imposed. Stebbins stipulates that there are sufficient facts contained in the Commission's files and records to support the findings of fact and conclusions of law set forth below. In entering into this stipulation, Stebbins waives the right to a hearing to contest the findings of fact, conclusions of law and order set forth below.

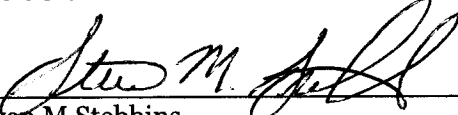
By signing below, Stebbins acknowledges, understands, stipulates, and agrees to the following: (i) he has been fully advised of his rights to notice and a hearing to contest the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order set forth below, and fully and finally waives all such rights and any rights to appeal or otherwise challenge this Stipulation of Facts and Final Order of Reprimand and Probation (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 Stebbins 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.

STIPULATION OF FACTS

1. The Commission has licensed Stebbins since February 12, 1991. Stebbins holds a Standard Teaching License, with endorsements in Health (PK-12) and Physical Education (PK-12), valid from August 25, 2015, through August 24, 2020. During all relevant times, Stebbins was employed by the South Umpqua School District (SUSD).
2. On or about December 5, 2016, the South Umpqua School District received information alleging Stebbins had been texting with a female student, MP, in violation of policy. Investigation determined that between September 22, 2016, and November 27, 2016, Stebbins and MP exchanged multiple text messages. Some of the exchanges were school related due to her position as his teaching assistant, but some included personal small talk mostly initiated by MP. Several of the text conversations occurred on evenings and weekends. Investigation did not reveal any inappropriate or grooming content in these messages. Due in part to the stress of the investigation into the text messages, MP experienced significant social difficulties impacting both her health and education.
3. On December 15, 2016, the South Umpqua School District issued Stebbins a reprimand and one day off without pay for violating district policy.

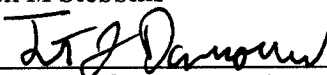
IT IS SO STIPULATED:



Steven M Stebbins

2/15/18

Date



Trent Danowski, Deputy Director
Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

2/23/18

Date

CONCLUSION OF LAW

The conduct described above constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*), OAR 584-020-0025(2)(e) (*Using district lawful and reasonable rules and regulations*), OAR 584-020-0030(2)(b) (*Skill in communicating with administrators, students, staff, parents, and other patrons*); OAR 584-020-

1 0040(4)(o) as it incorporates, OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(A) (*Not demonstrating or*
2 *expressing professionally inappropriate interest in a student's personal life*), and OAR
3 584-020-0035(1)(c)(D) (*Honoring appropriate adult boundaries with students in*
4 *conduct and conversations at all times*).

5
6 The Commission's authority to impose discipline in this matter is based upon
7 ORS 342.175.

8
9 **ORDER**

10 The Commission adopts and incorporates herein the above findings of fact and
11 conclusions of law, and based thereon, imposes a Public Reprimand on Steven M
12 Stebbins' Oregon educator license.

13 Furthermore, the Commission imposes a period of one (1) year of probation upon
14 Stebbins' licensure to commence from the date this order is signed by the Commission
15 and subject to the following conditions:

- 16 1. Stebbins shall comply with the Standards for Competent and Ethical
17 Performance of Oregon Educators under Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter
18 584, Division 020.
19 2. Stebbins will complete a Commission approved training related to his conduct as
20 described in section two (2) above and submit proof of same prior to the
21 completion of his probation period.

22
23 Issued and dated this 6 day of April, 2018.

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

26
27 By  _____

28 Dr. Anthony Rosilez, Executive Director