

1 rights to consult with an attorney prior to entering into this Stipulation and Final
2 Order and issuance and entry of the Stipulated Final Order below.

3 **STIPULATION OF FACTS**

4 1. The Commission has licensed Dawn Piersma since August 25, 2000.
5 Piersma's Preliminary School Counselor License, with an endorsement in
6 School Counselor (PK-12), is valid from May 15, 2016, through May 14, 2019.
7 During all relevant times, Piersma was employed by the Salem-Keizer School
8 District (SKSD).

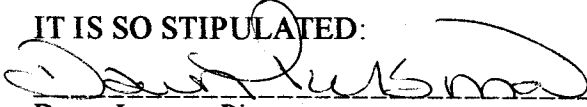
9 2. On September 27, 2016, the Commission received a district report alleging
10 Piersma had violated professional standards related to unprofessional
11 decision making as it pertains to her counseling of two students who were
12 involved in an abusive dating relationship. According to information the
13 Commission received from SKSD, Piersma's role at the district is as an
14 academic counselor to provide support in three domains: academic, personal
15 /social, and college / career. Investigation identified the following examples
16 of unprofessional conduct:

- 17 a. On or about January 2016, students JL and RH were caught having
18 sex on school grounds. As a result, a Sexual Incident Response
19 Committee (SIRC) meeting was held which Piersma attended. The
20 SIRC meeting revealed that the female student, RH had felt
21 pressured to engage in sexual activity on school property.
- 22 b. After the January 2016 incident, Piersma began providing academic
23 counseling to JL. In the course of Piersma's academic counseling,
24 JL revealed to Piersma that he experienced violent sexual dreams.
25 Piersma reports that she suggested JL see a counselor outside SKSD
26 about his dreams.
- 27 c. Around March 2016, at the request of JL and RH, Piersma agreed
28 to counsel JL and RH to provide personal/social support as it
29 pertained to their academics. According to Piersma, RH complained
30 that JL did not do homework and did not follow through on
31 projects for classes they had together.
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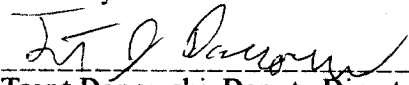
- 1 d. According to Piersma, on May 25, 2016, RH reported during one of
2 Piersma's counseling sessions to being forced against her will to
3 have sex with JL while at a friend's party. According to Piersma, JL
4 acknowledged in her presence that RH's report was true. According
5 to Piersma, she then immediately consulted with other school staff
6 and took RH to report the sexual assault to School Resource Officer
7 Acosta. Piersma asserts that she was present for RH's conversation
8 with Officer Acosta and encouraged RH to disclose to Officer Acosta
9 what was said during the counseling session. RH then relayed to
10 Officer Acosta what was previously disclosed to Piersma, including
11 that JL forced her to have sex with him.
- 12 e. After Piersma took RH to make a report to Officer Acosta, JL wrote
13 a letter in which he affirmed his conduct and his regret about his
14 actions related to the sexual assault. According to Piersma, JL gave
15 the letter to Piersma later that day. Piersma did not immediately
16 provide the letter to Officer Acosta but instead did so only after the
17 letter was discussed in a meeting two days later on May 27, 2016. In
18 the course of investigation, Piersma admitted to not timely
19 providing the letter because she had been distracted with other
20 tasks involving the aftermath of the sexual assault report.
- 21 f. Piersma also failed to separately report her personal knowledge of
22 the situation to Officer Acosta, or school administrators, after
23 Officer Acosta interviewed RH. In the course of investigation,
24 Piersma explained that she initially believed Officer Acosta had
25 already obtained all relevant information. However, Piersma
26 admitted to school administrators that she failed to disclose that JL
27 told her he had experienced violent sexual dreams. RH did not
28 report that information to Officer Acosta during the interview at
29 which Piersma was present.
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1 g. On September 26, 2016, school officials issued Piersma a "Letter of
2 Reprimand" and a three day suspension without pay for violation of
3 local policies related to her conduct.
4
5

6 IT IS SO STIPULATED:

7 
8 Dawn Lynette Piersma

11-3-18
Date

9 
10 Trent Danowski, Deputy Director
11 Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

11/14/2018
Date


13 CONCLUSION OF LAW

14 Piersma's conduct described above constitutes gross neglect of duty in
15 violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR
16 584-020-0010(1) (Recognize the worth and dignity of all persons and respect
17 for each individual), OAR 584-020-0010(5) (Use professional judgment), OAR
18 584-020-0020(2)(d) (Skill in the supervision of students); and OAR 584-020-
19 0025(2)(e) (Using district lawful and reasonable rules and regulations).

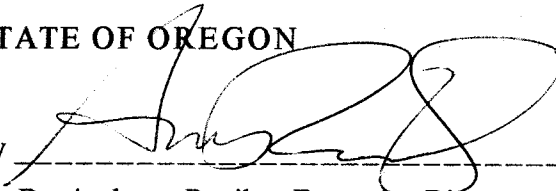
20 The Commission's authority to impose discipline in this matter is based
21 upon ORS 342.175.

22 ORDER

23 The Commission hereby adopts and incorporates herein the above
24 findings of fact, conclusions of law, and based thereon hereby imposes a Public
25 Reprimand on Dawn Lynette Piersma's Oregon educator license upon adoption
26 of this order.

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28 Issued and dated this  day of February, 2019.

29 TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION
30 STATE OF OREGON

31
32 By 
33 Dr. Anthony Rosilez, Executive Director