

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 NATHAN D. HELLAND)
6

7 On February 24, 2017, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission
8 (Commission) received a report from the North Bend School District alleging
9 professional misconduct on the part of licensed educator, Nathan D. Helland (Helland).

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

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

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

1 **STIPULATION OF FACTS**

2 1. The Commission has licensed Helland since September 8, 2005. Helland’s Initial
3 II Teaching License, with endorsements in Language Arts (HS, ML) and Multiple
4 Subjects (MIDLVL), is valid from September 17, 2014 through March 30, 2018.
5 During all relevant times, Helland was employed by the North Bend School
6 District.

7
8 2. On February 24, 2017, the Commission received a report from the North Bend
9 School District indicating Helland may have committed an act of gross neglect of
10 duty and/or gross unfitness by taking personal property from another educator
11 while visiting another school at a Speech and Debate competition.

12
13 3. Investigation determined that from February 17-18, 2017, Helland as the teacher
14 and coach of the North Bend High School (NBMSHS) Speech and Debate team,
15 supervised NBMSHS students at a two-day speech and debate competition held
16 at Grants Pass High School (GPHS). Helland was also a judge for parts of the
17 competition.

18
19 Helland was assigned a GPHS classroom for his activities at the event. While
20 sitting at the desk, Helland notice a box containing Magic: The Gathering (MTG)
21 trading / playing cards. Helland placed the box in his bag and removed them
22 from the classroom. The GPHS teacher, and owner of the cards, reported the
23 theft to authorities. Later review of school video coverage showed that Mr.
24 Helland took the cards.

25
26 When North Bend school officials questioned Helland, he immediately admitted
27 to taking the box and cards. Per an agreement with the victim and school
28 officials, Helland returned the stolen property, and the victim declined to press
29 criminal charges. NBSD found Helland to be in violation of local policy and
30 issued Helland a five-day suspension without pay and a Last Chance Agreement
31 for his conduct.

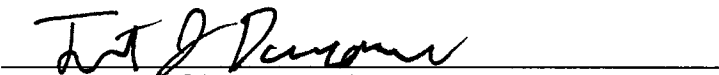
32
33 As a result of this incident, Helland sought counseling to understand why he took
34 those cards. Through this counseling, Helland has gained understanding of this

1 unlawful and self-destructive behavior and developed strategies to manage his
2 stress. He has continued as an employee at North Bend without incident.

3
4

5 IT IS SO STIPULATED:

6 
7
8 Nathan D. Helland 3/12/18
Date

9 
10 Trent Danowski, Deputy Director 3/15/18
11 Date
12 Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

13
14

CONCLUSION OF LAW

15 The conduct described above constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS
16 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(1)
17 (*Recognize the worth and dignity of all persons and respect for each individual*), OAR
18 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*), OAR 584-020-0025(2)(e) (*Using*
19 *district lawful and reasonable rules and regulations*), and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(o) as
20 it incorporates OAR 584-020-0035(3)(a) (*Maintain the dignity of the profession by*
21 *respecting and obeying the law, exemplifying personal integrity and honesty*).

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23

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

25

ORDER

26 The Commission adopts and incorporates herein the above findings of fact and
27 conclusions of law, and based thereon, imposes a Public Reprimand on Nathan D.
28 Helland's Oregon educator license.

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30 Issued and dated this 6 day of April, 2018.

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

33
34 By 

35 Dr. Anthony Rosilez, Executive Director