BEFORE THE TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF OREGON In the Matter of the STIPULATION OF FACTS, Teaching License of SURRENDER, ORDER OF HEATHER RENEA WHITE REVOCATION AND PROBATION

On or about April 16, 2002, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) received a report from Patrick Burke, Superintendent, Fern Ridge School District, indicating the District was investigating a situation involving Heather Renea White (White) and a student.

After review of the matters alleged, Ms. White and the Commission agree that their respective interests, together with the public interest, are best served by a stipulation to certain facts and surrender of her teaching license as per OAR 584-050-0027. Ms. White understands that the Commission will accept the surrender of her teaching license, revokes said license for a period of five (5) months, and impose a four (4) year probation upon any future reinstatement of licensure.

This Order sets forth the facts upon which the parties have agreed and the sanction to be imposed. Ms. White 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, Ms. White waives the right to a hearing to contest the findings of fact, conclusions of law and order set forth below.

This stipulation is contingent upon approval and adoption of the Order by the Commission. If the Commission does not adopt this Order, neither Ms. White nor the Commission are bound by these Stipulations and Ms. White retains all rights to a hearing on the allegations.

STIPULATION OF FACTS

Ms. White has been licensed by the Commission since August 19, 1998. The
 Commission issued Ms. White's current Standard Teaching License on April 17, 2002, valid until
 February 14, 2008, with a Standard Language Arts Endorsement.

1 STIPULATION OF FACTS, SURRENDER, ORDER OF REVOCATION, AND PROBATION - WHITE

1	2. On April 12, 2002, Investigators from the Lane County District Attorney's Office
2	contacted the Fern Ridge School District based upon a parent complaint that Ms. White was
3	inappropriately communicating with complainant's 17 year old son, TC, a student attending Elmira
4	High School. After a complete investigation of Ms. White's contact with TC, no criminal charges
5	were filed.
6	3. Ms. White began employment with the Fern Ridge School District as a teacher at Elmira
7	High School on September 1, 1998. Ms. White received outstanding teacher performance
8	evaluations annually. On April 15, 2002, the District placed Ms. White on administrative leave. Ms.
9	White resigned her teaching position effective the end of the 2001-2002 school year.
10	4. Beginning in February of 2002, Ms. White engaged in romantic or overly personal email
11	communication with, TC, a 17 year old male student in her class. There is no evidence that this
12	relationship included physical or sexual contact.
13	5. Ms. White provided funds to TC and asked him to purchase a train ticket to travel to
14	Seattle, Washington, to meet her at a hotel for the weekend; however, this trip never occurred.
15	6. Ms. White encouraged TC to provide misleading information to his parents regarding his
16	whereabouts on that weekend.
17	7. Ms. White acknowledges that her behavior in this matter was inappropriate and accepts
18	responsibility for her conduct.
19	IT IS SO STIPULATED:
20 21	Wather Renea White Date
22	
23 24	Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director 2-05-04 Date

Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

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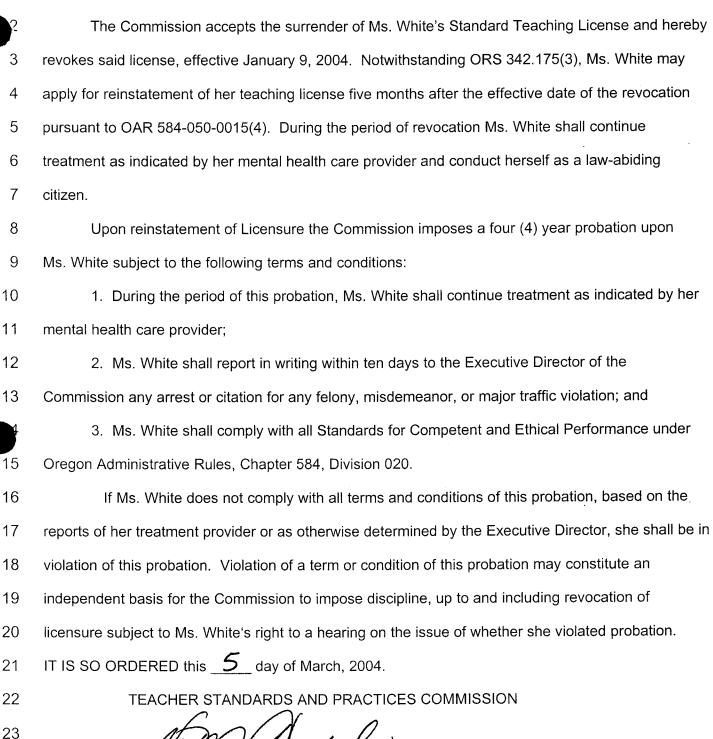
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

A	
2	Heather Renea White failed to maintain a professional student-teacher relationship with TC
3	a 17 year old male student attending Elmira High School in violation of OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c).
4	Ms. White exploited her professional relationship with TC for personal purposes in violation of OAR
5	584-020-0035(1)(b). Ms. White failed to maintain the dignity of the profession and exemplify
6	personal integrity and honesty when she encouraged a student to lie to his parents in violation of
7	OAR 584-020-0035(3)(a). This misconduct constitutes Gross Neglect of Duty. The Commission's
8	authority to impose discipline in this matter is based upon ORS 342.175.
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1 ORDER

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Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director

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