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

In the Matter of the)
Teaching License of) STIPULATION OF FACTS,
KEITH PHILLIP GATLIN) SURRENDER, AND
ORDER OF REVOCATION

On or about December 5, 2000, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) received a report from Phil Riley, Superintendent, Jefferson County School District, alleging that Keith Phillip Gatlin violated District Policy regarding internet use by using a school computer to access sexually explicit material over the internet and failed to maintain appropriate professional student-teacher relationships.

On or about August 16, 2001, the Commission notified Keith Phillip Gatlin of that report, provided him a copy of that report and invited his response.

After review of the matters alleged, Mr. Gatlin 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 his teaching license as per OAR 584-050-0027.

This Order sets forth the facts upon which the parties have agreed and the sanction to be imposed. In entering into this stipulation, Mr. Gatlin waives the right to a hearing to contest the finding of fact, conclusion of law and order set forth below. Mr. Gatlin understands that the Commission will revoke his teaching license.

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

STIPULATION OF FACTS

1. The Commission issued Mr. Gatlin a Basic Teaching License with a Basic Elementary Endorsement on September 16, 2000 valid until September 17, 2003.

1 2. Mr. Gatlin was employed by the Jefferson County School District as a teacher at
2 Madras Middle School beginning October 5, 1998, until resignation in lieu of termination
3 November 28, 2000.

4 3. A District-owned computer with Internet access was present in Mr. Gatlin's classroom
5 for his use in connection with his assigned responsibilities.

6 4. The District has a clearly defined, acceptable use policy. The District's policy
7 prohibits the use or attempted use of equipment for Internet access of sexually explicit
8 materials.

9 5. During the 1999-2000 and fall of 2000-2001 school years, Mr. Gatlin used his
10 classroom computer on multiple occasions to access sexually explicit materials through the
11 District's Internet connection in violation of District policy regarding Internet use during student
12 contact hours and non-student contact hours.

13 6. During the 1999-2000 and fall of 2000-2001 school years, Mr. Gatlin used his
14 classroom computer on multiple occasions to send and receive email messages containing
15 sexually explicit content.

16 7. During the 1999-2000 and fall of 2000-2001 school years, Mr. Gatlin used the
17 District's Internet connection to repeatedly exchange email messages with seven female
18 students. He failed to maintain an appropriate student-teacher relationship with the female
19 students by engaging in overly personal communications and conversations with them.

20 8. Mr. Gatlin accepts responsibility for his behavior and acknowledges his
21 behavior was inappropriate.

22 IT IS SO STIPULATED:

23 Keith P. Gatlin
24 Keith Phillip Gatlin
25

12-18-01
Date

26 David V. Myton
27 David V. Myton Executive Director
28 Teacher Standards and Practices Commission
29

12/21/01
Date

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CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Keith Phillip Gatlin's behaviors set forth above constitute Gross Neglect of Duty. Mr. Gatlin used the computer equipment owned by his employer, Jefferson County School District, located on school premises, to access sexually explicit materials in violation of OAR 584-020-0040(4)(q). Mr. Gatlin violated OAR 584-020-0010(4)(q) by using computer equipment owned by his employer to exchange sexually explicit email messages. Mr. Gatlin was fully aware that accessing and sending such materials at the workplace with a District owned computer was inappropriate and in violation of District policy. Mr. Gatlin violated OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c) by failing to maintain appropriate professional student-teacher relationships with female students attending Madras Middle School.

ORDER

The Commission accepts the surrender of Mr. Gatlin's Basic Teaching License and hereby revokes the Oregon Teaching License, certificate number 292285 issued to Keith Phillip Gatlin.

Dated this 11th day of January, 2001

TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

By: David Myton
David V. Myton, Executive Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Barbara J. Diamond, OSB# 85039
Attorney for Keith Phillip Gatlin

[120601revocation]