


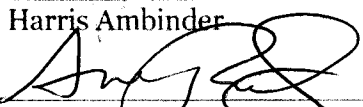
1 attorney prior to entering into this Stipulation and Final Order and issuance and entry of
2 the Stipulated Final Order below.

3 **STIPULATION OF FACTS**

- 4 1. The Commission has licensed Ambinder since November 14, 1996. Ambinder
5 holds a Professional Teaching License, with endorsements in English Language
6 Arts (PK-12) and Social Studies (PK-12), valid from September 1, 2016, through
7 August 31, 2021. During all relevant times, Ambinder was employed by the
8 Portland Public School District (PPSD).
- 9 2. On May 30, 2017, the Commission received a report from the PPSD indicating
10 Ambinder may have committed an act of gross neglect of duty and/or gross
11 unfitness. In violation of PPS policy, Ambinder engaged in inappropriate verbal
12 interactions with students, used inappropriate language, and nudged or kicked a
13 student who was laying on the floor. PPS determined Ambinder's conduct
14 constituted a pattern of inappropriate behavior.
- 15 3. On or about April 23, 2014, PPSD issued Ambinder a Memo of Expectation due
16 to an incident that occurred in which Ambinder stated "this is bullshit" within
17 earshot of students after discovering some spilled juice in the back of the
18 classroom.
- 19 4. According to Ambinder, in 2016, the Franklin High School was moved to the
20 Marshall High building; hallway behavior and lack of control became as a serious
21 discipline issue and remained a contentious issue throughout the school year;
22 there were many faculty discussions about how to get hallway behavior under
23 control. Ambinder and other teachers were threatened and cursed at by students
24 in the hallways, and Ambinder was physically shoved and threatened by students
25 who were subsequently expelled.
- 26 5. On May 8, 2017, PPSD issued Ambinder a Letter of Expectation when Ambinder
27 referred to a student as "a piece of trash". On August 2, 2017, PPSD issued
28 Ambinder a Letter of Suspension (three days) and Final Warning for an event
29 that occurred on May 26, 2017. On that date, Ambinder encountered a group of
30 students engaged in horseplay in the hallway where two students were on the
31 floor wrestling. Ambinder asked the students to leave several times, but they did
32 not leave. Approximately 15 minutes later Ambinder encountered the students
33 engaged wrestling on the floor of the hallway; he told the students to "get the fuck
34 out of the school". Ambinder then nudged with his foot the one student who

1 remained on the floor. There was no injury to the student reported due to this
2 nudge or kick. The May 26, 2017 incident was witnessed by multiple students and
3 quickly reported to another educator who was in the area. PPSD determined
4 Ambinder's conduct violated district policy and showed a pattern of related policy
5 violations and poor decision making.
6

7 **IT IS SO STIPULATED:**

8 
9 _____ Date 1/22/19
10 Harris Ambinder
11 
12 _____ Date 2/12/19
13 ~~Frent Danowski, Deputy Director~~ - Anthony J. Rosilez
Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

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 district*
19 *lawful and reasonable rules and regulations*), OAR 584-020-0030(2)(b) (*Skill in*
20 *communicating with administrators, students, staff, parents, and other patrons*); and
21 (OAR 584-020-0040(4)(o) as is incorporates OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(D) (*Honoring*
22 *appropriate adult boundaries with students in conduct and conversation at all times*).
23

24 The Commission's authority to impose discipline in this matter is based upon
25 ORS 342.175.
26

27 **ORDER**

28 The Commission adopts and incorporates herein the above findings of fact and
29 conclusions of law, and based thereon, imposes a Public Reprimand on Harris
30 Ambinder's Oregon educator license.

31 Furthermore, the Commission imposes a period of two (2) years of probation
32 upon Ambinder's licensure to commence from the date this order is signed by the
33 Commission and subject to the following conditions:
34


- 35 1. Ambinder shall comply with the Standards for Competent and Ethical

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

Performance of Oregon Educators under Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter
584, Division 020.

Issued and dated this 12 day of February, 2019.

TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION
STATE OF OREGON

By  _____

Dr. Anthony Rosilez, Executive Director