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2	OF THE STATE OF OREGON	
3 4 5 6	In the Matter of the STIPULATION OF FACTS AND Educator License of FINAL ORDER OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND AND PROBATION	
6 7	On May 30, 2017, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission	
8	(Commission) received a report from the Portland Public School District (PPSD)	
9	indicating possible professional misconduct on the part of licensed educator, Harris	
10	Ambinder (Ambinder).	
11	After review of the matters alleged, Ambinder and the Commission agree that	
12	their respective interests, together with the public interest, are best served by a	
13	stipulation to certain facts, the imposition of a Public Reprimand, and a period of	
14	probation.	
15	This Order sets forth the facts upon which the parties have agreed and the	
16	sanction to be imposed. Ambinder stipulates that there are sufficient facts contained in	
17	the Commission's files and records to support the findings of fact and conclusions of law	t
18	set forth below. In entering into this stipulation, Ambinder waives the right to a hearing	,
19	to contest the findings of fact, conclusions of law and order set forth below.	
20	By signing below, Ambinder acknowledges, understands, stipulates, and agrees to	О
21	the following: (i) he has been fully advised of his rights to notice and a hearing to contest	ŧ
22	the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order set forth below, and fully and finally	
23	waives all such rights and any rights to appeal or otherwise challenge this Stipulation of	
24	Facts and Final Order of Public Reprimand and Probation (Stipulation and Final Order);	;
25	(ii) this Stipulation and Final Order is a public document and disclosed to the public	
26	upon request by the Commission; (iii) this Stipulation and Final Order is contingent	
27	upon and subject to approval and adoption by the Commission. If the Commission does	,
28	not approve and adopt this Stipulation and Final Order, then neither Ambinder nor the	
29	Commission are bound by the terms herein; (iv) he has fully read this Stipulation and	
30	Final Order, and understands it completely; (v) he voluntarily, without any force or	
31	duress, enters into this Stipulation and Final Order and consents to issuance and entry o	ρf

the Stipulated Final Order below; (vi) he states that no promise or representation has

consulted with an attorney regarding this Stipulation and Final Order and has been fully advised with regard to his rights thereto, or waives any and all rights to consult with an

been made to induce him to sign this Stipulation and Final Order; and (vii) he has

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

STIPULATION OF FACTS

- 1. The Commission has licensed Ambinder since November 14, 1996. Ambinder holds a Professional Teaching License, with endorsements in English Language Arts (PK-12) and Social Studies (PK-12), valid from September 1, 2016, through August 31, 2021. During all relevant times, Ambinder was employed by the Portland Public School District (PPSD).
- 2. On May 30, 2017, the Commission received a report from the PPSD indicating Ambinder may have committed an act of gross neglect of duty and/or gross unfitness. In violation of PPS policy, Ambinder engaged in inappropriate verbal interactions with students, used inappropriate language, and nudged or kicked a student who was laying on the floor. PPS determined Ambinder's conduct constituted a pattern of inappropriate behavior.
- 3. On or about April 23, 2014, PPSD issued Ambinder a Memo of Expectation due to an incident that occurred in which Ambinder stated "this is bullshit" within earshot of students after discovering some spilled juice in the back of the classroom.
- 4. According to Ambinder, in 2016, the Franklin High School was moved to the Marshall High building; hallway behavior and lack of control became as a serious discipline issue and remained a contentious issue throughout the school year; there were many faculty discussions about how to get hallway behavior under control. Ambinder and other teachers were threatened and cursed at by students in the hallways, and Ambinder was physically shoved and threatened by students who were subsequently expelled.
- 5. On May 8, 2017, PPSD issued Ambinder a Letter of Expectation when Ambinder referred to a student as "a piece of trash". On August 2, 2017, PPSD issued Ambinder a Letter of Suspension (three days) and Final Warning for an event that occurred on May 26, 2017. On that date, Ambinder encountered a group of students engaged in horseplay in the hallway where two students were on the floor wrestling. Ambinder asked the students to leave several times, but they did not leave. Approximately 15 minutes later Ambinder encountered the students engaged wrestling on the floor of the hallway; he told the students to "get the fuck 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 Harris Ambinder 10 11 Trent Danowski, Deputy Director - Anthony J. Rosilez 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 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(1) 16 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 communicating with administrators, students, staff, parents, and other patrons); and 20 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

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

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1	Performance of Oregon Educators under Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter
2	584, Division 020.
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4	Issued and dated this \(\frac{1}{2} \) day of February, 2019.
5	TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION
6	STATE OF OREGON
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8	By the
9	Dr. Anthony Rosilez, Executive Director
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