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

In the Matter of the) STIPULATION OF FACTS AND
Educator License of) FINAL ORDER OF REPRIMAND
RICK DUANE WARD)

On or about December 14, 2016, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) received a report from the Salem Keizer School District alleging professional misconduct on the part of licensed educator, Rick Duane Ward (Ward).

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

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

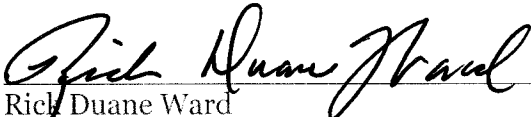
By signing below, Ward acknowledges, understands, stipulates, and agrees to the following: (i) he has been fully advised of his rights to notice and a hearing to contest the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order set forth below, and fully and finally waives all such rights and any rights to appeal or otherwise challenge this Stipulation of Facts and Final Order of Reprimand (Stipulation and Final Order); (ii) this Stipulation and Final Order is a public document and disclosed to the public upon request by the Commission; (iii) this Stipulation and Final Order is contingent upon and subject to approval and adoption by the Commission. If the Commission does not approve and adopt this Stipulation and Final Order, then neither Ward nor the Commission are bound by the terms herein; (iv) he has fully read this Stipulation and Final Order, and understands it completely; (v) he voluntarily, without any force or duress, enters into this Stipulation and Final Order and consents to issuance and entry of the Stipulated Final Order below; (vi) he states that no promise or representation has been made to induce him to sign this Stipulation and Final Order; and (vii) he 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 attorney prior

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

3 **STIPULATION OF FACTS**

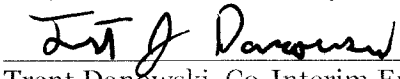
- 4 1. The Commission has licensed Ward since January 26, 1987. Ward's Standard
5 Teaching License, with endorsements in Standard Health Education (018) and
6 Standard Physical Education (018), is valid from April 6, 2014, through April 5,
7 2019. During all relevant times, Ward was employed by the Salem Keizer School
8 District.
- 9 2. On December 14, 2016, the Commission received a report from the Salem Keizer
10 School District indicating Ward may have committed an act of gross neglect of
11 duty and/or gross unfitness; specifically, that Ward was subject to an
12 investigation involving the violation of the district policy on search and seizure.
- 13 3. During an investigation into a series of alleged thefts in the boy's gym locker area,
14 Ward disclosed to school officials that he had conducted searches of student gym
15 lockers and belongings for drugs and weapons. Ward explained that he had found
16 such contraband in the past as a result of his searches. Ward also admitted that,
17 on several occasions, he disposed of the contraband he found in the garbage.
- 18 4. School officials determined Ward's conduct was in violation of district search and
19 seizure policy. In addition, school officials determined that Ward failed to follow
20 student discipline policy upon discovery of the contraband; and failed to follow
21 district policy by not reporting the discovery of contraband to administrators,
22 and by disposing of drugs and weapons in the garbage. On November 22, 2016,
23 school officials issued Ward a written reprimand and suspended him one day
24 without pay.

25
26 IT IS SO STIPULATED:

27 
28 _____
29 Rick Duane Ward

9/25/17

Date

30 
31 _____
32 Trent Danowski, Co-Interim Executive Director
33 Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

10/6/2017

Date

1 **CONCLUSION OF LAW**

2 The conduct described above constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS
3 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(1)
4 (*Recognize the worth and dignity of all persons and respect for each individual*), OAR
5 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*), OAR 584-020-0025(2)(e) (*Using*
6 *district lawful and reasonable rules and regulations*), and OAR 584-020-0030(2)(b)
7 (*Skill in communicating with administrators, students, staff, parents, and other*
8 *patrons*).

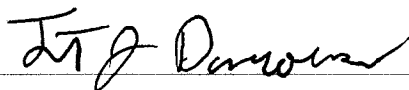
9 The Commission's authority to impose discipline in this matter is based upon
10 ORS 342.175.

11 **ORDER**

12 The Commission adopts and incorporates herein the above findings of fact and
13 conclusions of law, and based thereon, imposes a Public Reprimand on Rick Duane
14 Ward's Oregon educator license.

15
16
17 Issued and dated this 9th day of November, 2017.

18 **TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION**
19 **STATE OF OREGON**

20
21 By 

22 Trent Danowski, Co-Interim Executive Director