

#37586

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

RECEIVED

MAY 29 2018

3	In the Matter of the)	STIPULATION OF FACTS AND	
4	Educator License of)	FINAL ORDER OF SUSPENSION	Teacher Standards &
5	ERIC LAWRENCE KNAUSS)	AND PROBATION	Practices Commission

6 On or about November 1, 2016, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission
7 (Commission) received a report from the North Clackamas School District, indicating possible
8 misconduct related to Eric Lawrence Knauss' (Knauss) improper use of his district issued laptop
9 computer.

10 After review of the matters alleged, Knauss and the Commission agree that their respective
11 interests, together with the public interest, are best served by a stipulation to certain facts, the
12 imposition of a thirty (30) day suspension of Knauss' Oregon educator license, followed by a period of
13 probation upon reinstatement of Knauss' Oregon educator license.

14 This document sets forth the facts upon which the parties have agreed and the stipulated
15 sanction to be imposed. Knauss stipulates that there is sufficient evidence in the Commission's files
16 and records to support the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order set forth below.

17 By signing below, Knauss acknowledges, understands, stipulates, and agrees to the following:


- 18 (i) he has been fully advised of his rights to notice and a hearing to contest the findings of fact,
- 19 conclusions of law, and order set forth below, and fully and finally waives all such rights and any rights
- 20 to appeal or otherwise challenge this Stipulation of Facts and Final Order of Suspension and
- 21 Probation (Stipulation and Final Order); (ii) this Stipulation and Final Order is a public document and
- 22 disclosed to the public upon request by the Commission; (iii) this Stipulation and Final Order is
- 23 contingent upon and subject to approval and adoption by the Commission. If the Commission does
- 24 not approve and adopt this Stipulation and Final Order, then neither Knauss nor the Commission are
- 25 bound by the terms herein; (iv) he has fully read this Stipulation and Final Order, and understands it
- 26 completely; (v) he voluntarily, without any force or duress, enters into this Stipulation and Final Order
- 27 and consents to issuance and entry of the Stipulated Final Order below; (vi) he states that no promises
- 28 or representation has been made to induce him to sign this Stipulation and Final Order; and (vii) he
- 29 has consulted with an attorney regarding this Stipulation and Final Order and has been fully advised
- 30 with regard to his rights thereto, or waives any and all rights to consult with an attorney prior to
- 31 entering into this Stipulation and Final Order and issuance and entry of the Stipulated Final Order
- 32 below.

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STIPULATION OF FACTS

- 1) The Commission has licensed Knauss since February 15, 1984. Knauss holds a Professional Teaching License, with an endorsement in Physical Education (PK-12), valid from January 27, 2017 through January 26, 2022. During all relevant times, Knauss was employed by the North Clackamas School District.
- 2) On November 1, 2016, the Commission received a report from the North Clackamas School District indicating Knauss may have committed acts which constitute gross neglect of duty. After Knauss turned in his school district issued laptop computer to the district's IT department for upgrades, the District discovered inappropriate materials on the computer. A forensic investigation showed that between September 2015 and June 2016, Knauss used his laptop to view numerous pornographic websites. Information shared with DHS and law enforcement indicated that no criminal activity had occurred and no charges were filed. Knauss admitted to district officials that he had been using his issued computer at home to access inappropriate websites, participated in adult chat rooms, and accessed pornographic images. District officials issued Knauss a Letter of Reprimand for violations of District policy.

IT IS SO STIPULATED:


Eric L Knauss

5/23/18
Date


Trent Danowski, Deputy Director
Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

5/30/2018
Date

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The above described conduct that Eric L. Knauss engaged in 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(5) (*Use professional judgment*); OAR 584-020-0025(2)(e) (*Using district lawful and reasonable rules and regulations*), OAR 584-020-0040(4)(b) (*Substantial unauthorized use of employment time or school resources for private purposes*), OAR 584-020-0040(4)(q) (*Unauthorized use of school electronic equipment to receive, store, produce or send sexually explicit materials*); and OAR 584-020-0040(o) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0035(2)(e) (*Not use the district's or school's name, property, or resources for non-educational benefit or purposes without approval of the educator's supervisor or the appointing authority*).

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

2
3 **ORDER**

4 The Commission hereby adopts and incorporates herein the above stipulation of facts,
5 conclusions of law, and based thereon hereby imposes a thirty (30) day suspension upon Eric L.
6 Knauss' Oregon educator license as follows:

7 Eric L. Knauss' Oregon educator license is hereby suspended for thirty (30) days following the
8 adoption of this order.

9 Furthermore, the Commission imposes a period of two (2) years of probation upon Knauss'
10 licensure to commence upon the reinstatement of Knauss' Oregon educator license and subject to the
11 following conditions:

- 12 1. Knauss shall comply with the Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance of Oregon
13 Educators under Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter 584, Division 020.
14 2. Knauss will complete a Commission approved boundaries training and submit proof of same
15 within the first year of his probation period.

16
17 IT IS SO ORDERED this 20 day of June, 2018.

18 TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

19
20 By:  _____

21 Dr. Anthony Rosilez, Executive Director