1 BEFORE THE TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION 2 OF THE STATE OF OREGON 3 4 In the Matter of the STIPULATION OF FACTS. 5 Teaching License of ORDER OF REPRIMAND MICHAEL AMES CONNOR 6 AND PROBATION 8 9 On or about May 19, 2000, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission 10 (Commission) received a report from Benjamin Canada, Superintendent, Portland 11 Public Schools indicating that the Michael Connor resigned during an investigation. The 12 records indicate that the District received a parent complaint alleging that Michael 13 Connor took pictures of their daughter, took students off campus to lunch without parent 14 consent and engaged in inappropriate horseplay with students. 15 Mr. Connor fully cooperated with the Commission's investigation. After review of 16 the matters alleged, Mr. Connor and the Commission agree that their respective 17 interests, together with the public interest, are best served by a stipulation to certain 18 facts and the imposition of a Public Reprimand, followed by a period of probation of one 19 (1) year. This Order sets forth the facts upon which the parties have agreed and the 20 sanction to be imposed. In entering into this stipulation, Mr. Connor waives the right to 21 a hearing to contest the findings of fact, conclusion of law and order set forth below. 22 Mr. Connor understands that the probation with be subject to specific conditions. 23 111 24 111

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STIPULATION OF FACTS

2	1. Mr. Connor holds a Basic Oregon Teaching License with Standard Social
3	Studies and Basic Reading Endorsements valid until January 9, 2002. He was
4	employed by Portland Public Schools as a teacher at Portsmouth Middle School
5	beginning in September of 1998 until resignation effective April 24, 2000.
6	2. Mr. Connor had no prior public school teaching experience.
7	3. Mr. Connor took an excessive number of photographs of the same female
8	student. The student reported that this made her feel uncomfortable.
9	4. Mr. Connor engaged in inappropriate horseplay with students in the
10	classroom: picking female students up in both arms, spinning them around; tickling; and
11	writing on them with magic markers.
12	5. Mr. Connor took students off campus to lunch without parental permission or
1 _U	checking them out at the office.
14	6. Upon resignation of his teaching position with Portland Public Schools Mr.
15	Connor sought counseling and mentoring with his former professor Ken Peterson at
16	Portland State University.
17	7. Mr. Connor is currently substitute teaching at North Clackamas School
18	District.
19	8. Mr. Connor accepts responsibility for his behavior and acknowledges his
20	behavior was inappropriate in that he failed to maintain appropriate professional
21	boundaries with students.
22	This stipulation is contingent upon approval and adoption of the Order by the

Commission. If the Commission does not adopt this Order, neither Mr. Connor nor the

1	Commission are bound by these Stipulations and Mr. Connor retains all rights to a
2	hearing on the allegations.
3	IT IS SO STIPULATED:
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5 6	Michael Connor Date
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8 9 10	David V. Myton Executive Director Teacher Standards and Practices Commission 2/12/01 Date
11	CONCLUSION OF LAW
12	Mr. Connor failed to demonstrate a commitment to use professional judgment
13	when he took students off campus to lunch without parent permission and without
14	building checkout in violation of OAR 584-020-0010(5). Mr. Connor failed to
15	demonstrate a commitment to use professional judgment when engaged in
16	inappropriate horseplay with students in violation of OAR 584-020-0010(5).
17	ORDER
18	The Commission imposes a Public Reprimand on Mr. Connor. This Stipulation of
19	Facts, Order and Probation constitutes the Reprimand. Furthermore, the Commission
20	imposes a one (1) year probation upon Mr. Connor subject to the following conditions:
21	1. Mr. Connor shall at his own expense, participate in an intensive education
22	program regarding appropriate boundaries with students conducted by a qualified
23	trainer approved advance by the Commission. This intensive training shall consist of, at
24	least, five (5) one and one-half (1 ½) hour sessions. The Commission will provide the

1	trainer with a copy of this Order on February 16, 2001. The program trainer will provide
2	the Commission with a report of successful program completion.
3	2. Mr. Connor shall comply with all Standards for Competent and Ethical
4	Performance under Chapter OAR 584, Division 020.
5	3. Violation of the terms of this probation may constitute an independent basis
6	for the Commission to impose discipline, up to and including revocation of Mr. Connor's
7	teaching license subject Mr. Connor's right to a hearing on the issue of whether he
8	violated probation.
9	Dated this day of March 2001
10	TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION
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12 13	By: David V. Myton, Executive Director
14	Approved as to form:
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16	Meemile
17	Adrianne Nelson, OSB #96098
18	Attorney for Michael Connor