

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
JOSHUA D. RIST)	SUSPENSION AND PROBATION

On June 1, 2021, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) received a School District Misconduct Report alleging possible professional misconduct on the part of licensed educator, Joshua D. Rist. In addition to the School District Misconduct Report the Commission also received a Department of Human Services (DHS) cross-report alleging the same possible misconduct. The misconduct alleged that Rist engaged in an inappropriate relationship with two of his female students, ■ and ■.

After review of the matters alleged, Rist 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 sixty (60) day suspension of Rist's Oregon educator's license and 3 years probation with conditions to complete as a requirement of probation.

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

By signing below, Rist 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 Suspension and Probation (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 Rist 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 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 Rist since July 29, 2013. Rist currently holds a Preliminary Teaching License, with an endorsement in Music (PK-12), valid from June 15, 2020, through June 14, 2023. Rist's application for renewal of that license is pending. During all relevant times, Rist was employed by the Salem-Keizer Public Schools (SKPS).
2. On June 1, 2021, the Commission received a School District Misconduct report alleging misconduct by Joshua Rist, a teacher in the SKPS. The School District Misconduct report along with a Department of Human Services (DHS) cross-report alleged that Rist engaged in inappropriate interactions with two of his female students, [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] that reportedly occurred while they were students and/or immediately after graduation.
3. The Commission investigation established that while [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were students enrolled at McNary High School, Rist developed a personal relationship with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The personal relationships consisted of communications with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in person and through the Remind messaging system used by SKPS for educational purposes. Rist's communications with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] while they were students included discussions of a personal nature as described in paragraphs 4 and 5 below.
4. [REDACTED] was a student at McNary High School from approximately Fall of 2016 until the Spring of 2020. Her official graduation date was June 5, 2020, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic, seniors who were passing all of their classes as of April were considered to be done with school sometime in April 2020. During this time,

Rist's relationship with [REDACTED] included telling [REDACTED] that he loved her in messages and in person, holding and squeezing [REDACTED]'s hand during "high fives" at school functions, discussing topics of a personal nature including [REDACTED]'s sexual orientation and his personal/marital life.

5. [REDACTED] was a student at McNary High School from approximately Fall of 2015 until graduation on or about June 2, 2019. During this time, Rist's relationship with [REDACTED] included discussions regarding [REDACTED]'s prior sexual assault by another student, commenting on [REDACTED]'s personal appearance, meeting with [REDACTED] outside of school for choir discussions, cult mentality and relationships in reference to the Rajneesh movement, and discussing his personal/marital life.
6. Rist successfully completed the NASDTEC Academy "Prevention and Correction" course on January 17, 2023. He accepts responsibility for his overly personal interactions with some students, better understands where to draw professional boundary lines, and has changed his professional practices accordingly.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

By engaging in each of the conduct identified in paragraphs 4 and 5 above, Rist engaged in 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 584-020-0035(1)(c)(A) (*Not demonstrating or expressing professionally inappropriate interest in a student's personal life*), and OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(D) (*Honoring appropriate adult boundaries with students in conduct and conversations at all times*).

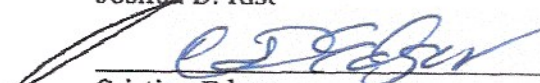
IT IS SO STIPULATED:



Joshua D. Rist

6-8-23

Date



Cristina Edgar
Director of Professional Practices
Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

6/9/23

Date

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

ORDER

The Commission adopts and incorporates herein the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, and based thereon, orders as follows:

Mr. Rist's educator license is suspended for a period of sixty (60) days from the date of this order

Mr. Rist is placed on probation for a period of three (3) years to begin when his license is reinstated following the 60 day suspension. As a condition of probation:

1. Mr. Rist shall comply with the Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance of Oregon Educators under Oregon Administrative Rule Chapter 584, Division 020;
2. Mr. Rist shall complete a Commission-approved Boundaries Training Course as a condition of probation.

Issued and dated this 21 day of June, 2023.

TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION
STATE OF OREGON

By _____

Dr. Anthony Rosilez, Executive Director