

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

In the Matter of the)	DEFAULT ORDER OF DENIAL OF
Educator License of)	APPLICATION AND REVOCATION
EDWARD J. KNOWLES)	OF RIGHT TO APPLY FOR AN
)	EDUCATOR LICENSE

On May 25, 2022, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Edward J. Knowles (Knowles) in which the Commission charged him with Gross Neglect of Duty and/or Gross Unfitness. The Notice was sent via U.S. First Class Mail and U.S. Certified Mail Receipt 7021 0350 0000 8184 3248 to the address on file with the Commission. The Notice designated the Commission file as the record for purposes of proving a prima facie case. The regular first class and Certified Mail were not returned to the Commission and assumed delivered. The Notice of Opportunity of Hearing, dated May 25, 2022, and signed by Anthony Rosilez, Executive Director, stated:

“IF A REQUEST FOR HEARING IS NOT RECEIVED WITHIN THIS 21-DAY PERIOD, YOUR RIGHT TO A HEARING SHALL BE CONSIDERED WAIVED UNLESS YOUR FAILURE TO REQUEST A HEARING WAS BEYOND YOUR REASONABLE CONTROL. IF YOU DO NOT REQUEST A HEARING, WITHDRAW YOUR REQUEST FOR HEARING, OR IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR AT A HEARING, OR NOTIFY THE COMMISSION THAT YOU WILL NOT APPEAR AT HEARING, THE COMMISSION WILL ADOPT AN ORDER OF DEFAULT WHICH MAY INCLUDE THE REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF YOUR LICENSE OR OTHER DISCIPLINE.”

On June 3, Knowles, through his attorney, notified the Commission by letter he was requesting a hearing. On September 28, 2022, Knowles waived his request for a hearing. The Commission, therefore, finds Knowles to be in default and enters the following findings of fact, conclusions of law, and final order, based on the files and records of the Commission concerning this matter.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Commission has licensed Knowles since November 5, 2005. Knowles held a Professional Teaching License, with endorsements in Special Education – Generalist (PK-12), valid from July 2015, through March 31, 2021. On December

2, 2020, Knowles submitted an application for renewal of his Professional Teaching License. Knowles' application was placed on hold pending resolution of this matter. During all relevant times, Knowles was employed by the David Douglas School District (DDSD).

2. On June 10, 2021, the Commission received a report indicating Knowles may have committed acts which constitute gross neglect of duty and/or gross unfitness. Specifically, the report alleged Knowles engaged in inappropriate teacher/student boundaries with a student and the student's family.
3. In the summer of 2019, Knowles met a family while he was staying at the Oregon coast. The family consisted of two parents and four (4) minor-aged children, all under the age of eight (8), including SB, who was seven years old at the time. Later in the summer, Knowles invited the family to stay with him in Portland. The family accepted the offer and lived in a neglected travel trailer located on Knowles' property, near the rear patio of Knowles' house. In March 2020, law enforcement and the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) documented that the living conditions in the trailer were unsafe and unsanitary for the children, and that the children were poorly nourished and neglected. Knowles was a mandatory reporter and did not make a report of this situation to DHS.
4. SB almost exclusively spent nights in Knowles' residence in a guest room which included a bed and toys. On most of these occasions, SB spent the night unaccompanied. SB's sister infrequently spent the night in the guest room, and only when SB was present. No other family members slept overnight in Knowles' house or the guest room.
5. SB was enrolled in Gilbert Heights Elementary School, DDSD, for the 2019-20 school year. SB had an individualized education program (IEP). In the fall of 2019, district staff became concerned when Knowles became involved in SB's IEP terms, rather than SB's parents. Knowles spoke directly to SB's teacher about SB's behavior, which was outside the scope of Knowles' professional duties. Knowles' work duties were to support middle school and high school students at

1 other schools. After attending several meetings focused on SB, Knowles'
2 supervisor directed Knowles not to participate in any additional meetings
3 regarding SB without parental permission.

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5 6. On most school days, during the 2019-20 school year, Knowles dropped off and
6 picked up SB from school in Knowles' personal automobile without district
7 authorization. In December 2019, Knowles traveled to California for vacation
8 with SB and without SB's parents. Knowles also purchased clothing and books for
9 SB.

11 CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

12 Edward J. Knowles' failure to report suspected child abuse as described in
13 paragraph three (3) above constitutes Gross Neglect of Duty in violation of ORS
14 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use*
15 *professional judgment*), OAR 584-020-0025(2)(e) (*Using district lawful and*
16 *reasonable rules and regulations*), and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(s) (*Failing to report*
17 *child abuse pursuant to ORS 419B.010*).

18 The conduct described in paragraphs four (4), five (5), and six (6) constitutes
19 gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it
20 incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(1) (*Recognize the worth and dignity of all persons*
21 *and respect for each individual*), OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*),
22 OAR 584-020-0025(2)(e) (*Using district lawful and reasonable rules and regulations*)
23 and OAR 584-020-0030(2)(b) (*Skills in communicating with administrators, students,*
24 *staff, parents and other patrons*) ; OAR 584-020-0040(4)(o) as it incorporates OAR
25 584-020-0035(1)(b) (*Refrain from exploiting professional relationships with any*
26 *student for personal gain, or in support of persons or issues*), OAR 584-020-
27 0035(1)(c)(A) (*Not demonstrating or expressing professionally inappropriate interest*
28 *in a student's personal life*), OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(D) (*Honoring appropriate adult*
29 *boundaries with students in conduct and conversations at all times*).

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

1 **FINAL ORDER**

2 The Commission hereby denies Edward J. Knowles' application and revokes
3 Edward J. Knowles' right to apply for an Oregon educator license.

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5 IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 29th day of September, 2022.

6 TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

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8
9 By: Anthony J. Rosilez

10 Dr. Anthony Rosilez, Executive Director

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15 NOTICE OF APPEAL OR RIGHTS

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17 YOU ARE ENTITLED TO JUDICIAL REVIEW OF THIS ORDER. JUDICIAL REVIEW MAY
18 BE OBTAINED BY FILING A PETITION FOR REVIEW WITHIN 60 DAYS FROM THE
19 SERVICE OF THIS ORDER. JUDICIAL REVIEW IS PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF
20 ORS 183.482 TO THE OREGON COURT OF APPEALS.