

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

In the Matter of the)	DEFAULT ORDER OF
Educator License of)	PUBLIC REPRIMAND
THOMAS R. STROH, JR.)	AND PROBATION

On February 24, 2025, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Thomas R. Stroh, Jr. (Stroh) 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 9589 0710 5270 2978 6250 92 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 Certified Mail was returned to the Commission as unclaimed. The regular first-class mail was not returned to the Commission and assumed delivered. The Notice of Opportunity of Hearing, dated February 24, 2025, and signed by Rachel Alpert, 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.”

Stroh did not request a hearing. The Commission, therefore, finds Stroh 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 Thomas R. Stroh, Jr. since June 7, 2016. Stroh held a Preliminary Teaching License, with an endorsement in Elementary – Multiple Subjects Substitute (PK-12), valid from February 19, 2021, through February 19, 2026. During all relevant times, Stroh was employed by the Bandon School District (BSD).
2. On June 5, 2023, the Commission received a school district misconduct report from the BSD indicating Stroh may have committed an act of gross neglect of duty and/or gross

unfitness. Specifically, it was alleged that Stroh improperly assisted students with questions on the Oregon Statewide Assessment System (OSAS) science test.

3. Investigation found that on May 9, 2023, Stroh was proctoring the OSAS science test for fifth grade students at Harbor Lights Middle School. While the test was ongoing, Stroh assisted/coached four students to the correct answer on the test and assisted/coached another student to the correct answer to multiple questions on the test. The same day, Stroh self-reported to a school administrator that he (Stroh) was involved in a testing impropriety with two students while the test was ongoing.
4. Investigation found that on May 9, 2023, Stroh was placed on administrative leave pending a district investigation into the testing concerns. On May 10, 2023, Stroh resigned from the district.
5. Investigation found that on May 10, 2023, the district reported the five (5) testing improprieties to the Oregon Department of Education (ODE). On May 11, 2023, ODE invalidated the five (5) OSAS science tests taken by Harbor Lights Middle School students on May 9, 2023.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Thomas R. Stroh Jr.'s conduct as described in section three (3) above 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(1) (*Recognize the worth and dignity of all persons and respect for each individual*), OAR 584-020-0010(2) (*Encourage scholarship*), OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*), OAR 584-020-0020(2)(d) (*Skill in the supervision of students*), and OAR 584-020-0025(2)(e) (*Using district lawful and reasonable rules and regulations*).

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

FINAL ORDER

The Commission adopts and incorporates herein the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, and based thereon, imposes a Public Reprimand upon Thomas R. Stroh Jr.'s Oregon educator license.

Furthermore, the Commission imposes a period of four (4) years of probation upon Stroh's license to commence from the date this order is adopted by the Commission and subject to the following condition:

1. Stroh shall comply with the Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance of Oregon Educators under Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter 584, Division 020.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 27 day of March, 2026.

TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rachel Alpert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

By: _____
Rachel Alpert, Executive Director

NOTICE OF APPEAL OR RIGHTS

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