

1 BEFORE THE TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION
2 OF THE STATE OF OREGON
3

4 In the Matter of the Educator License of:) STIPULATION OF FACTS AND
5 RAQUEL R. COBIAN) FINAL ORDER OF SUSPENSION
6 (AKA RAQUEL R. DEFENDER)) AND PROBATION
7

8 On October 13, 2023, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission
9 (Commission) received a report from the Bend-LaPine School District (District) alleging
10 Raquel R. Cobian (Cobian), AKA Raquel R. Defender, may have committed acts of gross
11 neglect of duty and/or gross unfitness, specifically, that Cobian was investigated for
12 sexual conduct with a student, and that Cobian violated teacher/student boundaries.

13 After review of the matters alleged, Cobian and the Commission agree that their
14 respective interests, together with the public interest, are best served by a stipulation to
15 certain facts, the imposition of a one (1) year Suspension and a two (2) year period of
16 Probation with conditions.

17 This Order sets forth the facts upon which the parties have agreed and the
18 sanction to be imposed. Cobian stipulates that there are sufficient facts contained in the
19 Commission’s files and records to support the findings of fact and conclusions of law set
20 forth below. In entering into this stipulation, Cobian waives the right to a hearing to
21 contest the findings of fact, conclusions of law and order set forth below.

22 By signing below, Cobian acknowledges, understands, stipulates, and agrees to
23 the following: (i) she has been fully advised of her rights to a hearing to contest the
24 findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order set forth below, and fully and finally
25 waives all such rights and any rights to appeal or otherwise challenge this Stipulation of
26 Facts and Final Order of Suspension and Probation (Stipulation and Final Order); (ii)
27 this Stipulation and Final Order is a public document and disclosed to the public upon
28 request by the Commission; (iii) this Stipulation and Final Order is contingent upon and
29 subject to approval and adoption by the Commission. If the Commission does not
30 approve and adopt this Stipulation and Final Order, then neither Cobian nor the
31 Commission are bound by the terms herein; (iv) she has fully read this Stipulation and
32 Final Order, and understands it completely; (v) she voluntarily, without any force or
33 duress, enters into this Stipulation and Final Order and consents to issuance and entry of
34 the Stipulated Final Order below; (vi) she states that no promise or representation has
35 been made to induce her to sign this Stipulation and Final Order; and (vii) she has
36 consulted with an attorney regarding this Stipulation and Final Order and has been fully

1 advised with regard to her rights thereto, or waives any and all rights to consult with an
2 attorney prior to entering into this Stipulation and Final Order and issuance and entry of
3 the Stipulated Final Order below.

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STIPULATION OF FACTS

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1. The Commission has licensed Cobian since December 16, 2022. From September
7 2022 to April 2023, Cobian completed her student practicum at Caldera High
8 School (CHS), Bend-LaPine School District (BLSA). On September 9, 2022,
9 Cobian applied for a restricted substitute teaching license and on December 16,
10 2022, the Commission issued Cobian the license, valid through June 30, 2023.
11 Cobian held a Restricted Teaching License, with an endorsement in Social
12 Studies (PK-12), valid from October 11, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

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2. On October 13, 2023, the Commission received a misconduct report from the
15 Bend-LaPine School District (BLSA) of allegations made against Cobian which
16 could constitute gross neglect of duty and/or gross unfitness. Specifically, the
17 allegations were Cobian was investigated for sexual conduct with a CHS student,
18 and Cobian violated teacher/student boundaries.

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3. Investigation found that in mid-October and early November 2022, the BLSA
21 received several anonymous complaints alleging Cobian engaged in a sexual
22 relationship with a CHS student. A local law enforcement investigation
23 determined the allegation was unfounded. A Commission investigation
24 unsubstantiated the allegation.

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4. Investigation found that prior to the end classes for the 2022-23 school year at
27 CHS, Cobian began texting with a seventeen (17) year-old male student who
28 Cobian knew from his attendance in a class she taught during the school year.
29 The texting ceased in early November of the 2023-24 school year. Many of the
30 text exchanges occurred in the evening hours and several texts occurred after
31 midnight. The content of the texts included coordinating meeting each other,
32 comments about growing marijuana, and drug usage.


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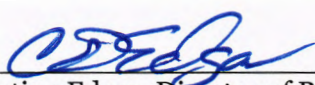
1 IT IS SO STIPULATED:

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5 Raquel R. Cobian

9/16/24

Date

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9 Cristina Edgar, Director of Professional Practices
10 Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

9/17/24

Date

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12 **CONCLUSION OF LAW**

13 The conduct described in section four (4) above constitutes gross neglect of duty
14 in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-
15 020-0010(1) (*Recognize the worth and dignity of all persons and respect for each*
16 *individual*), OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*); OAR 584-020-
17 0040(4)(o) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(A) (*Not demonstrating or*
18 *expressing professionally inappropriate interest in a student's personal life*) and OAR
19 584-020-0035(1)(c)(D) (*Honoring appropriate adult boundaries with students in*
20 *conduct and conversations at all times*).

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

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24 **ORDER**

25 The Commission adopts and incorporates herein the above findings of fact and
26 conclusions of law, and based thereon, imposes a one (1) year Suspension upon Raquel
27 R. Cobian's Oregon educator license.

28 Furthermore, the Commission imposes a two (2) year period of probation upon
29 Cobian's licensure to commence upon the reinstatement of her Oregon educator license
30 and subject to the following conditions:

- 31 1. Cobian shall comply with the Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance
32 of Oregon Educators under Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter 584, Division
33 020.
- 34 2. Prior to reinstatement, Cobian will complete a Commission-approved training on
35 teacher/student boundaries and submit proof to the Commission of successful
36 completion of the training.

1 Violation of any term or condition of probation shall constitute an independent basis for
2 the Commission to revoke Cobian's Oregon educator license or otherwise impose
3 discipline, after providing Cobian with notice of opportunity for hearing.

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5 Issued and dated this 18 day of October, 2024.

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7 **TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION**

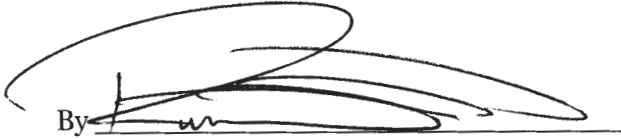
8 **STATE OF OREGON**

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A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Goff', is written over a horizontal line.

~~Melissa Goff, Interim Executive Director~~

Rae Ette Newmen, Chair of TSPC