

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

In the Matter of the Educator)
License of)
LORI ANN HUGHES)

On June 11, 2015, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Lori Ann Hughes (Hughes) in which the Commission charged her with Gross Neglect of Duty. The Notice was sent via U.S. First Class Mail and U.S. Certified Mail Receipt 7015 0640 0007 1084 6168 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 receipt was not returned to the Commission. The first class mail was not returned and assumed delivered. The Notice of Opportunity of Hearing, dated June 11, 2015, and signed by Victoria Chamberlain, 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 OR IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR AT A HEARING, THE COMMISSION WILL ADOPT AN ORDER OF DEFAULT WHICH MAY INCLUDE THE REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF YOUR LICENSE OR OTHER DISCIPLINE.”

Hughes did not request a hearing. The Commission, therefore, finds Hughes 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. Hughes been licensed as a teacher in Oregon since September 2, 1992. Hughes' Basic Teaching License, with an endorsement in Basic Elementary (016), is valid from October 5, 2012, through October 4, 2015. During all relevant times, Hughes was employed by the Klamath Falls County School District.
2. On May 2, 2014, the Commission received a school district report indicating Hughes may have committed acts which constitute gross neglect of duty. Investigation determined that Hughes experienced an unusual amount of disciplinary action from the Estacada School District. This included multiple directives and reprimands regarding Hughes' performance in the areas of, repeated tardiness, mishandling of school funds,

1 and leaving school announced. In addition, on or about April 2014, Hughes used a
2 school district computer and internet connection to access a patron's personal email
3 account and download intimate photographs of the patron's wife. Hughes stored these
4 photographs on the school district computer. Hughes then attempted to extort payment
5 from the patron for disputed monies Hughes claim he owed her. Hughes' extortion
6 attempts included Hughes sending copies of the photos she had taken from his account
7 and threatening to post them on social media sites if he failed to pay Hughes as
8 demanded. The email account provider was able to trace Hughes' unauthorized access
9 to Hughes' school district computer.

10 CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

11 Hughes's conduct described in section two above constitutes gross neglect of duty in
12 violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-
13 0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*); OAR 584-020-0040(o) as it incorporates OAR 584-
14 020-0035(2)(e) (*Not use the district's or school's name, property, or resources for non-*
15 *educational benefit or purposes without approval of the educator's supervisor or the*
16 *appointing authority*), OAR 584-020-0035(3)(a) (*Maintain the dignity of the profession by*
17 *respecting and obeying the law, exemplifying personal integrity and honesty*); and OAR 584-
18 020-0040(4)(q) (*Knowing and unauthorized use of school computer equipment to receive,*
19 *store, produce or send sexually explicit materials*).


20
21 The Commission's authority to impose discipline in this matter is based upon ORS
22 342.175.

23 FINAL ORDER

24 The Commission hereby revokes Lori Ann Hughes' Educator license.

25 IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 3rd day of August, 2015.

26 TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

27 By: 
28 Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director

1 NOTICE OF APPEAL OR RIGHTS
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3 YOU ARE ENTITLED TO JUDICIAL REVIEW OF THIS ORDER. JUDICIAL REVIEW MAY
4 BE OBTAINED BY FILING A PETITION FOR REVIEW WITHIN 60 DAYS FROM THE
5 SERVICE OF THIS ORDER. JUDICIAL REVIEW IS PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF
6 ORS 183.482 TO THE OREGON COURT OF APPEALS.