

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 REPRIMAND
DONALD SONNY SANDS) AND PROBATION

On May 28, 2013, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission
(Commission) received a report from the Rogue River School District alleging
professional misconduct on the part of licensed educator, Donald Sonny Sands (Sands).

After review of the matters alleged, Sands 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 Public Reprimand and two years of probation.

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

By signing below, Sands 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 Reprimand 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 Sands 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.

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STIPULATION OF FACTS

1. The Commission has licensed Sands since March 31, 1989. Sands' Basic Teaching License, with an endorsement in Basic Advanced Mathematics (018), issued on December 3, 2013, expires on December 2, 2016. During all relevant times, Sands was employed by the Rogue River School District.
2. On May 28, 2013, the Commission received a report from the Rouge River School District indicating that Sands may have violated professional standards by displaying inappropriate conduct in the classroom.
3. Commission investigation determined that on May 17, 2013, while substitute teaching a physical education class at the Rogue River Junior/Senior High School, Sands made inappropriate comments to students. According to school district officials, Sands asked a non-white student, "Do you speak English or are you an idiot?" Nearby students reported Sands also stated to the student that he should "Go back where he came from". When questioned by a school administrator and the commission's investigator, Sands confirmed that he did ask the student if he spoke English but denied asking if he was an idiot and telling him he should go back where he came from. Multiple student witnesses contradict Sands' denials. Student statements further indicate Sands also verbally bullied a student assistant for the class (BS) to the point she left the class crying uncontrollably.

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IT IS SO STIPULATED:

Donald Sonny Sands
Donald Sonny Sands
Victoria Chamberlain
Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director
Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

5/28/14
Date
6-4-14
Date

CONCLUSION OF LAW

The conduct described 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(5) (*Use professional judgment*); OAR 584-020-0020(2)(d) (*Skill in the*

1 supervision of students), and OAR 584-020-0030(2)(b) (Skill in communicating with
2 administrators, students, staff, parents, and other patrons).

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

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7 **ORDER**

8 Based on the foregoing, the Commission hereby orders as follows:

- 9 1. The Commission adopts and incorporates herein the above findings of fact and
10 conclusions of law, and based thereon, imposes a Public Reprimand on
11 Donald Sonny Sands' Educators License;
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13 2. Sands is hereby placed on probation for a period of two (2) years from the date
14 this order is signed by the Commission subject to the following conditions:
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16 a. Sands will complete training in cultural competency, as approved by the
17 Commission.
18 b. Sands shall comply with the Standards for Competent and Ethical
19 Performance of Oregon Educators under Oregon Administrative Rules
20 Chapter 584, Division 020.

21
22 Violation of any term or condition of probation shall constitute an independent basis
23 for the Commission to revoke Sands' teaching license, revoke his right to apply for a
24 license, or otherwise impose discipline, after first providing Sands with notice and
25 opportunity for hearing.

26
27 Issued and dated this 6th day of August, 2014.

28 **TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION**
29 **STATE OF OREGON**

30
31 By Victoria Chamberlain

32 Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director