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In the Matter of the)
Teaching License of) **DEFAULT ORDER OF**
BEVERLY JOAN PARSONS) **PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

On March 18, 2010, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Beverly Joan Parsons (Parsons) in which the Commission charged her with Gross Neglect of Duty pursuant to OAR 584-020-0040(4)(a), OAR 584-020-0035(2)(e), ORR 584-020-0035(3)(a) and OAR 584-020-0010(5). The Notice was sent via U.S. First Class Mail and U.S. Certified Mail Receipt 7009 1410 0002 1925 4614 to the address on file with the Commission. The Notice was signed for by Ms. Parsons on March 19, 2010. The Notice of Opportunity of Hearing, dated March 18, 2010, 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."

Ms. Parsons did not request a hearing. The Commission, therefore, finds Ms. Parsons to be in default and enters the following findings of fact, conclusions of law and order, based on the files and records of the Commission concerning this matter.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Commission has licensed Parsons as an educator in Oregon since July 29, 1991. Her current Standard Administrative License and Standard Teaching License, both issued December 15, 2004, expired on January 18, 2010.

2. During all relevant times Parsons was employed by the South Umpqua School District as the Superintendent.
3. On April 27 and 30, 2007, Ms. Parsons sent an email from her school district computer to district staff, during work hours, in support of and in opposition to candidates for school district board positions. The April 27 email contained specific instructions to public employees who were her subordinates to contribute financially to campaigns. ORS 260.432 prohibits public employees from promoting or opposing a candidate while on the job during working hours or in their official capacity, and forbids any persons from attempting to or actually requiring public employees to support or oppose a candidate. In December 2007, the Oregon Secretary of State found that Ms. Parsons' actions violated Oregon election laws and imposed a \$250 fine for the conduct.
4. Sending such email violated Oregon law, specifically ORS 260.432(2) and ORS 260.432(1).

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Ms. Parsons' use of school district computers and work time in furtherance of a political activity constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(a) (*Knowing and substantial unauthorized use of: school name or financial credit; school materials or equipment for personal purposes; or school personnel to provide personal services unrelated to school business*) and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(o) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0035(2)(e) (*Not use the district's or school's name, property, or resources for noneducational benefit or purposes without approval of the educator's supervisor or the appointing authority*) and OAR 584-020-0035(3)(a) (*Maintain the dignity of the profession by respecting and obeying the law, exemplifying personal integrity and honesty*). The Commission's authority to impose discipline in this matter is based upon ORS 342.175.

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1 **FINAL ORDER**

2 The Commission hereby imposes a Reprimand on the licensure of Beverly Joan
3 Parsons.

4 IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 14th day of May, 2010.

5 **TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION**

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8 By: 
9 Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director

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14 **NOTICE OF APPEAL OR RIGHTS**

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