

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

4   In the Matter of the Educator                    )     DEFAULT ORDER OF  
5   License of    )     REVOCATION OF  
6   ROBERT EDWARD PETTERSON                    )     LICENSURE  
7  
8

9           On March 18, 2015, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission)  
10   issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Robert Edward Petterson (Petterson) in which  
11   the Commission charged him with Gross Neglect of Duty. The Notice was sent via U.S. First  
12   Class Mail and U.S. Certified Mail Receipt 7014 0150 0000 1046 5659 to the address on file  
13   with the Commission. The Notice designated the Commission file as the record for purposes  
14   of proving a prima facie case. The Certified Mail receipt was returned signed to the  
15   Commission on 03,27,2015. The first class mail was not returned and is assumed delivered.  
16   The Notice of Opportunity for Hearing, dated March 18, 2015, and signed by Victoria  
17   Chamberlain, Executive Director, stated:

18           "IF A REQUEST FOR HEARING IS NOT RECEIVED WITHIN THIS 21-DAY  
19           PERIOD, YOUR RIGHT TO A HEARING SHALL BE CONSIDERED WAIVED  
20           UNLESS YOUR FAILURE TO REQUEST A HEARING WAS BEYOND YOUR  
21           REASONABLE CONTROL. IF YOU DO NOT REQUEST A HEARING OR IF YOU  
22           FAIL TO APPEAR AT A HEARING, THE COMMISSION WILL ADOPT AN ORDER  
23           OF DEFAULT WHICH MAY INCLUDE THE REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF  
24           YOUR LICENSE OR OTHER DISCIPLINE."  
25

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

29   **FINDINGS OF FACT**

- 30   1. Petterson has been licensed as a teacher in Oregon since June 3, 1980. Petterson's  
31   Standard Teaching License, with endorsements in Basic Elementary (016) and Standard  
32   Physical Education (018), is valid from September 4, 2012, through September 3, 2017.  
33   During all relevant times, Petterson was employed by the South Umpqua School District.  
34   2. On June 27, 2014, the Commission received a report from the superintendent of the  
35   South Umpqua School District indicating that Petterson had violated professional  
36   standards. School district investigation determined Petterson engaged inappropriate  
37   physical contact with a student that caused the student injury (discoloration).

- 1 3. Commission investigation determined that on or about May 12, 2014, while on the  
2 school playground with students, Petterson attempted to redirect a student who was  
3 ignoring the direction of another teacher. Petterson physically picked up the student,  
4 moved him back to the playground and forcibly sat him on a bench. Investigators  
5 determined that Petterson's use of force was unnecessary and excessive and caused  
6 the student's arms to redden.
- 7 4. The Commission investigation determined Petterson has established a pattern of  
8 inappropriate communications with students and patrons. On or about March 4,  
9 2011, Petterson observed a student drilling holes in a work bench. Petterson  
10 addressed the student with "What the fuck are you doing?!" On or about September  
11 2013, Petterson was counseled about using the term "Pussy" towards students to  
12 describe their inability to perform physical tasks or who displayed physical  
13 weakness. Petterson was also advised not to employ physical forms of punishment,  
14 forcing students to run laps or perform pushups. On or about October 2013,  
15 Petterson told a parent that "Your 'Give a shit meter' was running on empty". On or  
16 about November 2013, Petterson again used the term "Pussy" to describe a student's  
17 poor effort or ability and directed the student to perform pushups. On or about  
18 December 2013, Petterson was reprimanded for throwing a chair and his keys in a  
19 moment of anger during class and in the presence of students. Interviewed students  
20 advised that Petterson continues to use disparaging terms like "Pussy" towards  
21 students.

## 22 CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

23 Petterson's conduct described above, constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of  
24 ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-  
25 0020(0010(1)( *Recognize the worth and dignity of all persons and respect for each*  
26 *individual*), OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*), OAR 584-020-  
27 0020(2)(d)(*Skill in the supervision of students*), OAR 584-020-0030(2)(b) (*Skill in*  
28 *communicating with administrators, students, staff, parents, and other patrons*), OAR  
29 584-020-0025(2)(e)(*Using district lawful and reasonable rules and regulations*); and OAR  
30 584-020-0040(4)(d) (*Unreasonable physical force against students, fellow employees, or*  
31 *visitors to the school, except as permitted under ORS 339.250*).

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

3 **FINAL ORDER**

4 The Commission hereby revokes Robert Edward Petterson's educator license.

5 IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2015.

6 TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION



7 By: \_\_\_\_\_  
8 Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director  
9

10 NOTICE OF APPEAL OR RIGHTS

11  
12 YOU ARE ENTITLED TO JUDICIAL REVIEW OF THIS ORDER. JUDICIAL REVIEW  
13 MAY BE OBTAINED BY FILING A PETITION FOR REVIEW WITHIN 60 DAYS FROM  
14 THE SERVICE OF THIS ORDER. JUDICIAL REVIEW IS PURSUANT TO THE  
15 PROVISIONS OF ORS 183.482 TO THE OREGON COURT OF APPEALS.