

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

In the Matter of the)
Educator License of)
JUSTIN MICHAEL PRUNK)

On or about March 14, 2014, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) received information relating to Justin Michael Prunk (Prunk).

After review of the matters alleged, Prunk and the Commission agree that their respective interests, together with the public interest, are best served by a stipulation to certain facts, the imposition of a one (1) year suspension of Prunk's right to apply for an Oregon educator license followed by four (4) years of probation upon reinstatement.

This document sets forth the facts upon which the parties have agreed and the stipulated sanction to be imposed. Prunk stipulates that there is sufficient evidence in the Commission's files and records to support the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order set forth below.

By signing below, Prunk 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 Suspension of Right To Apply 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 Prunk 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 promises or representation has been made to induce him to sign this Stipulation and Final

1 Order; and (vii) he has consulted with an attorney regarding this Stipulation and Final Order
2 and has been fully advised with regard to his rights thereto, or waives any and all rights to
3 consult with an attorney prior to entering into this Stipulation and Final Order and issuance and
4 entry of the Stipulated Final Order below. In entering into this stipulation, Prunk waives the
5 right to a hearing to contest the findings of fact, conclusions of law and order set forth below.

6 **STIPULATION OF FACTS**

- 7 1. The Commission has licensed Justin Michael Prunk since August 24, 2004. Prunk's
8 current Initial I Teaching License, with an endorsement in Music (ML/HS, ECE/ELE L),
9 is valid from August 10, 2012, thru March 20, 2015. During all relevant times Prunk
10 served as a teacher with the Reynolds School District.
- 11 2. On March 14, 2014, the Commission received a report from the Reynolds School District
12 indicating Prunk was subject to multiple school district complaints and investigations
13 regarding allegations of inappropriate conduct with students. On March 21, 2014, the
14 Commission received a patron complaint alleging that Prunk had engaged in
15 inappropriate relationships with students, including inappropriate communications and
16 unethical crossing of student / teacher boundaries. Investigation determined that during
17 the 2012-2013 school year, Prunk inappropriately communicated with female students
18 BH, BC, MB, and NJ via text messages. Prunk's texting of these students was excessive,
19 including hundreds of text messages to each student and over one thousand to student
20 BH. Prunk's communications took place both during school hours, during teaching time,
21 and after school hours; including early mornings and late evenings. Prunk also shared
22 overly personal information with one student regarding Prunk's failing marriage and
23 related family information. In September 2013, Reynolds School District issued Prunk a
24 letter of expectation concerning his use of text messages, instructing him in the future to
25 ensure that all electronic contact with students be related to school business and
26 activities, and occur at reasonable times during the day.

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2

3 IT IS SO STIPULATED:

4

5 Justin Michael Prunk

3/31/15

Date

6

7 Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director

4-2-15

Date

8 Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

9

10

CONCLUSION OF LAW

11 Justin Michael Prunk's conduct as described 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 584-020-0025(2)(e) (*Using district lawful and*
14 *reasonable rules and regulations*); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(o) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-
15 0035(1)(b) (*Refrain from exploiting relationships with any student for personal gain, or in*
16 *support of persons or issues*), OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(A) (*Not demonstrating or expressing*
17 *professionally inappropriate interest in a student's personal life*), OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(B)
18 (*Not accepting or giving or exchanging romantic or overly personal gifts or notes with a*
19 *student*); and OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(D) (*Honoring appropriate adult boundaries with*
20 *students in conduct and conversations at all times*).

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

23

ORDER

24 The Commission hereby adopts and incorporates herein the above stipulation of facts,
25 conclusions of law, and based thereon hereby imposes a one (1) year suspension upon Prunk's
26 right to apply for an Oregon educator license as follows:

27 Justin Michael Prunk's right to apply for an Oregon educator license is hereby suspended
28 for one (1) year following the adoption of this order.

29 Prior to reinstatement, Prunk must provide a favorable psychological evaluation report
30 from a pre-approved provider, meeting commission standards for such evaluations.

1 Prior to reinstatement, Prunk must fully qualify for the Initial II Teaching License or the
2 equivalent license as required by rule.

3 Prior to reinstatement, Prunk must appear before the Commission to answer any
4 questions of the Commission.

5 Furthermore, the Commission imposes four (4) years of probation upon Prunk to
6 commence upon reinstatement of his license and subject to the following terms and conditions
7 of probation:

- 8
- 9 1. Prunk shall comply with the Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance of
- 10 Oregon Educators under Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter 584, Division 020.
- 11 2. Prunk will comply with any recommended counseling, training, or other such
- 12 requirement (if any) as may be determined/recommended by the psychological
- 13 evaluation report. Prunk will supply written proof of such compliance to the
- 14 Commission within the first year of his probation period.
- 15
- 16


17 Violation of any term or condition of probation shall constitute an independent basis for the
18 Commission to revoke Prunk's educator license or otherwise impose discipline, after first
19 providing Prunk with notice and opportunity for hearing.
20

21

22 IT IS SO ORDERED this 10th day of April, 2015.

23 TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

24

25 By: 

26 Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director