

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

In the Matter of the)
Educator License of)
KENNEY EVANS POLSON)

On November 18, 2014, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) received a report from the Portland Public Schools District alleging professional misconduct on the part of licensed educator, Kenney Evans Polson (Polson).

After review of the matters alleged, Polson 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.

By signing below, Polson 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 (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 Polson 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.

STIPULATION OF FACTS

1. Kenney Evans Polson has been licensed by the Commission since August 31, 2004. Polson's Initial II Teaching License, with an endorsement in Music (ML/HS, ECE/ELE L), is valid June 10, 2012, through June 9, 2015. Polson also holds an Initial Administrator License, with an endorsement in Administration (ALL LVL), valid from

1 January 11, 2013 through June 9, 2015. On April 21, 2015, Polson made timely
2 application for renewal of his licenses; and the expiration of both licenses were pended,
3 allowing both licenses to remain valid awaiting the final outcome of the
4 investigation. During all relevant times, Polson was employed by the Portland Public
5 School District.

- 6 2. On November 18, 2014, the Commission received a report from the Portland Public
7 School District indicating Polson may have committed an act of gross neglect of duty
8 and/or gross unfitness. Specifically, unwelcome physical contact and/or inappropriate
9 comments with a female employee:

10 a. On June 17, 2014, the last work day for teachers, Polson contacted a school
11 secretary whom Polson contends he had known and been friendly with
12 throughout the school year, in order to turn in his keys. Polson, while saying his
13 goodbyes, asked the secretary for a goodbye hug. The secretary, who was seated
14 at the time, reported that Polson hugged her in an affectionate manner and in a
15 way that made her feel uncomfortable and confused. The secretary stated that
16 Polson's actions were unwanted and wondered if Polson had sexually harassed
17 her. Within minutes, the secretary reported Polson's conduct to the school's
18 principal.

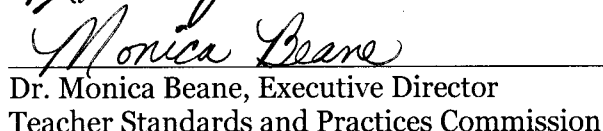
- 19 3. On December 11, 2014, district officials issued Polson a reprimand and final warning
20 with five days off without pay for policy violations related to sexual harassment. Polson
21 contests the secretary's allegations and the school district's actions, but acknowledges
22 that there may exist evidence that the Commission could find Polson in violation of
23 Commission rules.

- 24 4. Polson, on his own accord, sought related counseling to address the issue.
25
26

27 IT IS SO STIPULATED:

28 
29 _____
30 Kenney Evans Polson

31 Oct 18, 2016
32 _____
33 Date

31 
32 _____
33 Dr. Monica Beane, Executive Director
34 Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

35 October 24, 2016

Date

35 CONCLUSION OF LAW

1 Kenney EvansPolson's conduct as described above, violates professional
2 standards.Polson's conduct constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS
3 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use*
4 *professional judgment*),and OAR 584-020-0030(2)(b) (*Skill in communicating with*
5 *administrators, students, staff, parents, and other patrons*).

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

8 **ORDER**

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

- 10 1. The Commission adopts and incorporates herein the above findings of fact and
11 conclusions of law, and based thereon, imposes a Public Reprimand on
12 Kenney EvansPolson'sOregon educator license(s).

13
14 Issued and dated this 8th day of November, 2016.

15 **TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION**
16 **STATE OF OREGON**

17 By Monica Beane
18 Dr. Monica Beane, Executive Director
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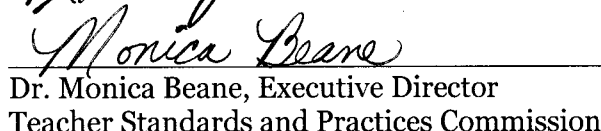
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OCT 18, 2016
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