

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

In the Matter of the  
Teaching License of  
TIMOTHY JON THOMAS

DEFAULT ORDER  
SUSPENDING LICENSE

On or about October 4, 2002, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission received a report from Maureen R. Sloane, Human Resources Counsel, of Portland Public Schools, indicating that Timothy J. Thomas had violated his contract by failing to provide 60 days' written notice prior to resignation. The district did not include the documents required under OAR 584-050-0020. Subsequently, the District submitted the requested documents on November 7, 2002. The Commission notified Mr. Thomas of intent to suspend his teaching license and his opportunity for hearing by letter dated November 13, 2002. The letter was sent by U.S. First Class Mail and U.S. Certified Mail—Return Receipt Requested #7001 0320 0005 0740 5475. The U.S. Certified Mail envelope was returned as "unclaimed" on December 10, 2002. The mailing sent by U.S. First Class Mail was not returned to the Commission.

Timothy Thomas did not request a hearing within the time required by the notice. Based on the foregoing, the Commission finds Timothy Thomas to be in default and enters the following findings of fact, conclusion of law and order based on the Commission's files and records.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On or about October 30, 2000, Timothy Thomas signed a contract with Portland Public Schools for the 2000-2001 school year as a 1<sup>st</sup> Year Probationary Teacher. On March 5, 2001, Portland Public Schools' Board of Education approved a resolution electing Timothy Thomas to second-year probationary status as a part-time teacher for the 2001-02 school year. On March 6, 2002, Portland Public Schools' Board of Education approved a resolution electing Timothy Thomas to third-year probationary status as a part-time teacher for the 2002-03 school year.
2. On August 27, 2002, Portland Public Schools terminated Timothy Thomas for abandonment of his position. Timothy Thomas did not turn in grades for his students at the end of the 2001-02 school year. He did not return to his .50 Language Arts/Social Studies assignment at Roosevelt High School for the 2002-03 school year. The Roosevelt High School principal attempted to contact Timothy Thomas several times over the summer, unsuccessfully, via telephone, e-mail and registered mail. No response was received. Timothy Thomas did not write a letter of resignation or complete a District resignation form.
3. Meeting in regular session on November 18, 2002, Portland Public Schools' Board of Education adopted a resolution stating that Timothy Thomas has not reported to his

1 assignment for the 2002-03 school year and has not contacted the District regarding his  
2 status or his intent to return for the 2002-03 school year; therefore be it resolved that  
3 Timothy Thomas has abandoned his position, that the employment of Timothy Thomas  
4 be terminated, and the position be declared vacant effective 06/14/02.  
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- 6 4. Portland Public Schools informed TSPC of this action in letters dated September 30,  
7 2002, and November 6, 2002, requesting the suspension of Timothy J. Thomas'  
8 Transitional Teaching License.  
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11 ULTIMATE FINDING OF FACT  
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13 Timothy Thomas abandoned his teaching position with Portland Public Schools without first  
14 providing 60 days' prior written notice to the district.  
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17 CONCLUSION OF LAW  
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19 Timothy Thomas violated ORS 342.553 by failing to provide 60 days' notice prior to resignation  
20 from his teaching position.  
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23 ORDER  
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25 The Commission suspends the Oregon Transitional Teacher License of Timothy Jon Thomas for  
26 the remainder of the 2002-03 school year.  
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28 Dated this 10<sup>th</sup> day of January 2003.  
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31 TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION  
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33  
34 By   
35 Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director  
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39 NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS  
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42 YOU ARE ENTITLED TO JUDICIAL REVIEW OF THIS ORDER. JUDICIAL REVIEW  
43 MAY BE OBTAINED BY FILING A PETITION FOR REVIEW WITHIN 60 DAYS FROM  
44 THE SERVICE OF THIS ORDER. JUDICIAL REVIEW IS PURSUANT TO THE  
45 PROVISIONS OF ORS 183.482 TO THE OREGON COURT OF APPEALS.  
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