

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

In the Matter of the)	STIPULATION OF FACTS AND
Educator License of)	FINAL ORDER OF PUBLIC
MICHAEL STEVE JONES)	REPRIMAND

On or about July 10, 2013, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) received a report from the Forest Grove School District indicating possible professional misconduct by Michael Steve Jones (Jones) when he inappropriately altered grades and credits of failing students.

After review of the matters alleged, Jones 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, Jones 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 Public 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 Jones 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. The Commission has licensed Michael Steve Jones since September 30, 2004. Jones's current Professional Teaching License with an endorsement in

1 Foundational Mathematics (PK-12), is valid from January 1, 2015, through
2 December 31, 2019. During all relevant times, Jones was employed by the Forest
3 Grove School District.

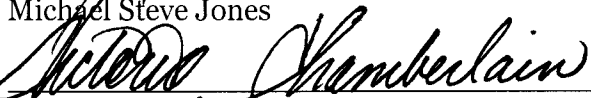
4 2. On July 10, 2013, the Commission received a report from the Forest Grove School
5 District indicating Jones was the subject of a district investigation that resulted in
6 discipline. The district reported that Jones' conduct violated local policies and
7 may violate professional standards. On May 31, 2013, Jones resigned his
8 employment with Forrest Grove School District.

9 3. Investigation determined that during the 2012-2013 school year, Jones had
10 altered students' grades, providing passing grades for tests, quizzes and work that
11 students had scored well below passing levels. Jones provided failing students
12 with passing grades and gave academic credits to students who had not earned
13 them. Records indicate that approximately 20 students had their grades
14 improperly altered by Jones. In the course of the investigation, Jones explained
15 that these students were taking online classes, came from difficult backgrounds
16 and situations, and he was only trying to help them succeed.

17
18 IT IS SO STIPULATED:

19
20
21 
22 Michael Steve Jones

7/22/2015
Date

23 
24 Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director
25 Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

7-23-15
Date

26
27 **CONCLUSION OF LAW**

28 The above described conduct that Michael Steve Jones engaged in constitutes
29 gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it
30 incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(2)(*Encourage scholarship*), OAR 584-020-
31 0010(4)(*Raise educational standards*), OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional*
32 *judgment*), OAR 584-020-0025(2)(e) (Using district lawful and reasonable rules and
33 regulations); and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(c) (*Falsification of any document or knowing*
34 *misrepresentation directly related to licensure, employment, or professional duties*).

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

3 **ORDER**

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

- 5 1. The Commission adopts and incorporates herein the above findings of fact and
6 conclusions of law, and based thereon, imposes a Public Reprimand on Michael
7 Steve Jones' Oregon educator's license.

8
9 Issued and dated this 17th day of August, 2015.

10 **TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION**
11 **STATE OF OREGON**

12
13 By 
14 Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director