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

In the Matter of the) STIPULATION OF FACTS
Application for Teaching License of) PUBLIC REPRIMAND AND
KRISTEN HAMILTON) ORDER OF PROBATION
)

On October 8, 1996, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission informed Kristen Hamilton that the Commission found sufficient evidence of violation of Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance of Oregon Educators to warrant a hearing regarding her application for an Oregon Teaching License. Kristen Hamilton requested a hearing on the allegations, but before a hearing date was set, the parties have agreed that their respective interest and the interests of the State are best served by a Stipulation of Facts and Order of Probation as set forth below.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Kristen Hamilton completed a teacher education program at Eastern Oregon State College in June 1996. She was recommended by the college for a Basic Teaching License with an endorsement in physical education.
2. Hamilton took a PRAXIS examination in physical education and achieved a score which exceeded TSPC's minimum passing score.
3. Hamilton also attempted the PRAXIS test of health education, but failed on the first attempt to achieve TSPC's minimum passing score of 720.
4. Hamilton altered the ETS score report from 710 to 720 in order to qualify for a health education endorsement.
5. On July 21, 1996, Hamilton submitted an application for licensure with endorsements in physical education and health education and submitted the altered score report on health education as the basis for the health education endorsement.
6. TSPC evaluators detected the altered score report for health education and referred the application to the Executive Secretary following established procedures for falsified documents.
7. The Executive Secretary denied Hamilton's application for licensure for falsifying a document.
8. In July 1996, Hamilton re-took the health education test and obtained a score of 780.
9. On September 1, 1996, Hamilton submitted the report of the successful retest together with an explanation for her reasons for altering the original score report on the health education test.

1 Kristen Hamilton enters into this Stipulation of Facts with knowledge that the Teacher
2 Standards and Practices Commission will issue a public reprimand/ Oregon License endorsed
3 in This Stipulation is contingent upon approval and adoption of the Order by the Commission.
4 If the Commission does not adopt this Order, neither Ms. Hamilton nor the Commission are
5 bound by these stipulations and her retains all rights to a hearing on the allegations.

6 IT IS SO STIPULATED:

7 Kristen Hamilton
8 Kristen Hamilton

10/11/96
Date

9 David V. Myton
10 David V. Myton, Executive Secretary
11 Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

10/21/96
Date

12 ULTIMATE FINDINGS OF FACT

13 Kristen Hamilton submitted a falsified report of score on the PRAXIS health education test as a
14 part of her application for an Oregon Teaching License.

15 CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

16 Under OAR 584-50-006(1)(a), the Executive Secretary is authorized to deny licensure when an
17 applicant submits falsified documentation of academic qualifications.

18 OPINION

19 Kristen Hamilton's actions in submitting a falsified score report on the PRAXIS test of health
20 education is a serious breach of professional ethics. Her actions were bizarre in view of the
21 fact that she qualified for a Basic Teaching License with endorsements in physical education
22 without the test score in health education. Her score in health
23 education was within one standard error of measure of the passing score, thus her chances of
24 passing on a retest were very high, as later demonstrated by her retest score. It appears that
25 her desire to get licensed to apply for a teaching position in September 1996 was responsible
26 for her extremely poor judgment in altering the test score. She has very high
27 recommendations from the college and from her former high school instructors, and there are
28 no other reports of dishonesty in her academic history. Based upon these factors, this order
29 authorizes issuance of a Basic Teaching License contingent upon a period of probation for one
30 year from the date of acceptance of this order by the Commission.

ORDER

The Commission issues a Public Reprimand to Kristen Hamilton and this order constitutes the reprimand. A Basic Teaching License with endorsements in physical education and health education shall be issued to Kristen Hamilton, however she shall be on probation for one year from the date of acceptance of this order by the Commission. During this period of probation Hamilton shall conduct herself as a law abiding citizen and shall comply with the Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance of Oregon Educators.

Dated this 12th day of December, 1996.

TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

By: David V. Myton
David V. Myton, Executive Secretary

DVM/cs

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that I served the foregoing order by mailing a true copy thereof certified by me as such by U. S. First Class Mail and U.S. Certified Mail with Return Receipt Requested to:



Dated this 13th day of December, 1996.

By: Charlene A. Smith
Charlene A. Smith
Secretary to the Commission