

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51

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

In the Matter of the)
Teaching License of) DEFAULT ORDER
SHIRLEY N. WOOD) SUSPENDING LICENSE
)

On or about September 2, 1998, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission received a complaint from Dennis Douglass, Superintendent of Douglas ESD, indicating that Shirley N. Wood had violated her contract by failing to provide 60 days' written notice prior to resignation. According to the ESD, Ms. Wood was offered renewal of her contract on February 24, 1998 and accepted and signed the offer of contract renewal on March 19, 1998. Due to late conclusion of negotiations, individual employment contracts were not issued until August, so Ms. Wood did not sign an actual contract for the 1998-99 school year. On August 17, 1998, Ms. Wood submitted her resignation as a speech and language pathologist for "personal and family reasons" without providing 60 days' written notice.

Under OAR 584-050-0020, the Commission informs the educator of intent to suspend the license on the basis of such complaints. The Executive Director took action to notify Ms. Wood of intent to suspend her Teaching License, and to inform Ms. Wood of her opportunity for hearing by letter dated September 22, 1998. The letter was sent by Certified Mail—Return Receipt Requested #P 412 422 524. The receipt was signed on September 24, 1998 and returned to TSPC. Ms. Wood requested a hearing and a tentative hearing date was set for December 22, 1998. On November 4, 1998, Ms. Wood withdrew her request for hearing in a letter faxed to Charlene Smith.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On or about March 19, 1998 signed an offer of contract renewal from July 1998 to June 1999, under terms and conditions of board policy and the applicable collective bargaining agreement with the Douglas ESD for the 1998-99 School year.
2. On August 17, 1998, Ms. Wood submitted a letter of resignation effective immediately from her position as a speech and language pathologist for Douglas ESD. Ms. Wood did not report for duty subsequent to her letter of August 17, 1998.
3. Meeting in regular session on August 27, 1998, the Douglas ESD School Board of Directors took action to seek a suspension of Ms. Wood's teaching license for the balance of the 1998-99 school year and accept her resignation.
4. The Douglas ESD School District informed TSPC of this action in a letter dated September 2, 1998, requesting the suspension of Shirley N. Wood's Teaching License.

ULTIMATE FINDINGS OF FACT

Shirley N. Wood was offered and signed a renewal of contract offer with the Douglas ESD School District on March 19, 1998. Ms Wood submitted a letter of resignation, dated August 17, 1998, without giving 60 days written notice and did not report for duty subsequent to resignation.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

ORS 342.553 requires the suspension of a license for the balance of the school year for failure to provide 60 days' notice prior to resignation. If the charge of the contract violation is proven, and justification for the contract violation is not satisfactory, the Commission is required to suspend the license for the remainder of the school year. The Commission's decision is final.

ORDER

The Commission suspends the Oregon Teaching License #278305, issued to Shirley N. Wood, , until June 30, 1999, for violation of contract by resignation without providing 60 days' written notice.

Dated this 24th day of November, 1998.

TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

By David V. Myton
David V. Myton, Executive Director

DVM/cs

ACTION OF THE COMMISSION TO SUSPEND LICENSES FOR CONTRACT VIOLATIONS
UNDER ORS 342.553 ARE FINAL AND MAY NOT BE APPEALED.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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

Dated this 26th day of November, 1998.

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