

1                   BEFORE THE TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION  
2                                   OF THE STATE OF OREGON  
3

4 In the Matter of the Educator                    )     DEFAULT ORDER OF  
5 License of    )     REVOCATION OF  
6 LARRY DALE COURTIER COATES            )     RIGHT TO APPLY  
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9           On June 10, 2014, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission)  
10 issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Larry Dale Courtier Coates (Coates) in which  
11 the Commission charged him with Gross Neglect of Duty. The Notice was sent via U.S. First  
12 Class Mail and U.S. Certified Mail Receipt 7010 2780 0000 2187 4061 to the address on file  
13 with the Commission. The Notice designated the Commission file as the record for purposes  
14 of proving a prima facie case. As of January 21, 2015, the Certified Mail receipt has not been  
15 received by the Commission. The first class mail was not returned to the Commission. The  
16 Notice of Opportunity of Hearing, dated January 8, 2015, and signed by Victoria  
17 Chamberlain, Executive Director, stated:

18           “IF A REQUEST FOR HEARING IS NOT RECEIVED WITHIN THIS 21-DAY  
19 PERIOD, YOUR RIGHT TO A HEARING SHALL BE CONSIDERED WAIVED  
20 UNLESS YOUR FAILURE TO REQUEST A HEARING WAS BEYOND YOUR  
21 REASONABLE CONTROL. IF YOU DO NOT REQUEST A HEARING OR IF YOU  
22 FAIL TO APPEAR AT A HEARING, THE COMMISSION WILL ADOPT AN ORDER  
23 OF DEFAULT WHICH MAY INCLUDE THE REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF  
24 YOUR LICENSE OR OTHER DISCIPLINE.”  
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26 On January 19, 2015, Coates thru his attorney Barish, withdrew his request for a hearing  
27 and requested a default order. The Commission, therefore, finds Coates to be in default and  
28 enters the following findings of fact, conclusions of law, and final order, based on the files  
29 and records of the Commission concerning this matter.

30                                   **FINDINGS OF FACT**

- 31       1. The Commission has licensed Coates since June 29, 1999. Coates previously held  
32 an Initial II Teaching License valid from August 27, 2011, through August 26,  
33 2014, with an endorsement in Music (ML/HS). On June 11, 2014, Coates  
34 submitted a written request / notice that he was surrendering his teaching  
35 license, effective on that date, as part of an agreement with the Beaverton City  
36 Attorney to settle Coates' related criminal investigation. During all relevant  
37 times, Coates was employed by the Beaverton School District.

- 1       2. On April 8, 2014, the Commission received a report from the Beaverton School  
2       District alleging Coates violated professional standards and practices. The  
3       resulting district, law enforcement, and Commission investigations determined  
4       that on or about April 3, 2014, while Coates was employed as a teacher at the  
5       Whitford Middle School, Coates, on two occasions, physically pulled an eighth  
6       grade student (AC) by the hair, causing her pain. AC rated her pain level as a 7  
7       out of 10, with 10 being the worst pain she had ever felt, and rated her pain level  
8       at a 6 approximately 3 hours after the event, telling police officers that her head  
9       still ached. AC reports she would be uncomfortable returning to Coates'  
10      classroom, and had been seeking a transfer from Coates' class because of other  
11      inappropriate behavior on Coates' part. The hair pulling event was witnessed by  
12      the entire classroom and several students reported being disturbed by Coates'  
13      actions and uncomfortable in his classroom. Both the school district's and the  
14      Commission's investigations determined Coates' use of force on the involved  
15      student to be excessive, inappropriate, and in violation of local policy.  
16  
17      3. Due to Coates' conduct in section two, Coates was charged with the criminal  
18      conduct of Harassment, a class B misdemeanor. At a later date, the criminal  
19      charges were dismissed as a result of a civil compromise that required Coates to  
20      continue counseling, write an apology letter to AC, surrender his teaching license,  
21      and resign Coates' employment. On June 11, 2014, Coates submitted a letter to  
22      the Commission voluntarily offering to surrender his teaching license. The  
23      Commission accepted the surrender pending due process and final Commission  
24      approval.  
25  
26      4. During the course of the investigation regarding the allegations contained in sections  
27      two and three, additional inappropriate conduct on Coates' part was discovered by  
28      commission investigators. On May 28, 2013, Coates was issued a letter of reprimand  
29      from the Beaverton School District. This was a result of students reporting to the  
30      administration additional conduct on Coates' part that violates professional standards.  
31      Students reported the following conduct:

- 1 a. Coates, on more than one occasion, struck students on the head with a  
2 book/music folder/notebook for forgetting an instrument, playing the wrong  
3 note, or for asking for help.
- 4 b. Multiple students reported Coates would call some students by nicknames, like  
5 "Goliath" (large student), "Fuzzy" (student's hair), and "Squirrel". After being  
6 confronted by the administration about this, Coates reported to his class that  
7 there "was a tattletale in the classroom". Students reported that Coates  
8 commented to one student that they had "terrible hair", Coates then stated "Hey  
9 that was mean, you get to slap me".
- 10 c. Students reported that Coates would on occasion grab students by the ear and  
11 physically lead them to a position or instrument.
- 12 d. Students complained that Coates would line the classroom up and tell the class  
13 that if they were in the front of the line, they were an "A", and if in the back of the  
14 line, they were an "F". Students advised they were embarrassed by this and felt  
15 bad in front of their peers as a result.
- 16

### 17 CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

18 Larry Dale Courtier Coates engaged in unprofessional conduct as described in section  
19 two (2) and three (3) above. This conduct constitutes Gross Neglect of Duty in violation ORS  
20 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(1)  
21 (*Recognize the worth and dignity of all persons and respect for each individual*), OAR 584-  
22 020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*), OAR 584-020-0025(2)(a) (*Establishing and*  
23 *maintaining classroom management that is conducive to learning*), OAR 584-020-  
24 0025(2)(e) (*Using district lawful and reasonable rules and regulations*); and OAR 584-020-  
25 0040(4)(d) (*Unreasonable physical force against students, fellow employees, or visitors to*  
26 *the school, except as permitted under ORS 339.250*). This conduct also constitutes gross  
27 unfitness in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(c); OAR 584-020-0040(5)(e) (*Admission of, or*  
28 *engaging in acts constituting criminal conduct, even in the absence of a criminal*  
29 *conviction*). Specifically, your conduct constituted Harassment as defined in ORS  
30 166.065(1)(a).

31 Larry Dale Courtier Coates engaged in unprofessional conduct as described in section

four (4) above. This conduct constitutes Gross Neglect of Duty in violation ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(1) (*Recognize the worth and dignity of all persons and respect for each individual*), OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*), OAR 584-020-0015(2)(e) (*Skill in the selection and use of teaching techniques conducive to student learning*), OAR 584-020-0025(2)(a) (*Establishing and Maintaining classroom management that is conducive to learning*), OAR 584-020-0030(2)(b) (*Skill in communicating with administrators, students, staff, parents, and other patrons*); and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(o) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(D) (*Honoring appropriate adult boundaries with students in conduct and conversations at all times*).

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

#### FINAL ORDER

The Commission hereby accepts the surrender of Larry Dale Courtier Coates' Educator License, and revokes Larry Dale Courtier Coates' right to apply for an Educator licensure.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January, 2015.

TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION



By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director

#### NOTICE OF APPEAL OR RIGHTS

YOU ARE ENTITLED TO JUDICIAL REVIEW OF THIS ORDER. JUDICIAL REVIEW MAY BE OBTAINED BY FILING A PETITION FOR REVIEW WITHIN 60 DAYS FROM THE SERVICE OF THIS ORDER. JUDICIAL REVIEW IS PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ORS 183.482 TO THE OREGON COURT OF APPEALS.