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

4	In the Matter of the)	DEFAULT ORDER OF DENIAL OF
5	Educator License of)	APPLICATION AND REVOCATION
6	EDWARD J. KNOWLES)	OF RIGHT TO APPLY FOR AN
7)	EDUCATOR LICENSE
8		-	

On May 25, 2022, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

10 (Commission) issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Edward J. Knowles

11 (Knowles) in which the Commission charged him with Gross Neglect of Duty and/or

12 Gross Unfitness. The Notice was sent via U.S. First Class Mail and U.S. Certified Mail

13 Receipt 7021 0350 0000 8184 3248 to the address on file with the Commission. The

14 Notice designated the Commission file as the record for purposes of proving a prima

15 facie case. The regular first class and Certified Mail were not returned to the

16 Commission and assumed delivered. The Notice of Opportunity of Hearing, dated May

17 25, 2022, and signed by Anthony Rosilez, 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 REASONABLE CONTROL. IF YOU DO NOT REOUEST A HEARING, 21 WITHDRAW YOUR REQUEST FOR HEARING, OR IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR 22 23 AT A HEARING, OR NOTIFY THE COMMISSION THAT YOU WILL NOT APPEAR AT HEARING, THE COMMISSION WILL ADOPT AN ORDER OF 24 25 DEFAULT WHICH MAY INCLUDE THE REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF YOUR LICENSE OR OTHER DISCIPLINE." 26

27

1

2

3

9

On June 3, Knowles, through his attorney, notified the Commission by letter he was
requesting a hearing. On September 28, 2022, Knowles waived his request for a hearing.

30 The Commission, therefore, finds Knowles to be in default and enters the following

31 findings of fact, conclusions of law, and final order, based on the files and records of the

- 32 Commission concerning this matter.
- 33

34

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Commission has licensed Knowles since November 5, 2005. Knowles held a

36 Professional Teaching License, with endorsements in Special Education –

37 Generalist (PK-12), valid from July 2015, through March 31, 2021. On December

2, 2020, Knowles submitted an application for renewal of his Professional 1 Teaching License. Knowles' application was placed on hold pending resolution of 2 this matter. During all relevant times, Knowles was employed by the David 3 Douglas School District (DDSD). 4 5 2. On June 10, 2021, the Commission received a report indicating Knowles may 6 have committed acts which constitute gross neglect of duty and/or gross 7 unfitness. Specifically, the report alleged Knowles engaged in inappropriate 8 9 teacher/student boundaries with a student and the student's family. 10 3. In the summer of 2019, Knowles met a family while he was staying at the Oregon 11 coast. The family consisted of two parents and four (4) minor-aged children, all 12 under the age of eight (8), including SB, who was seven years old at the time. 13 Later in the summer, Knowles invited the family to stay with him in Portland. 14 The family accepted the offer and lived in a neglected travel trailer located on 15 Knowles' property, near the rear patio of Knowles' house. In March 2020, law 16 enforcement and the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) documented 17 that the living conditions in the trailer were unsafe and unsanitary for the 18 children, and that the children were poorly nourished and neglected. Knowles 19 was a mandatory reporter and did not make a report of this situation to DHS. 20 21 22 4. SB almost exclusively spent nights in Knowles' residence in a guest room which included a bed and toys. On most of these occasions, SB spent the night 23 24 unaccompanied. SB's sister infrequently spent the night in the guest room, and 25 only when SB was present. No other family members slept overnight in Knowles' 26 house or the guest room. 27 5. SB was enrolled in Gilbert Heights Elementary School, DDSD, for the 2019-20 28 29 school year. SB had an individualized education program (IEP). In the fall of 30 2019, district staff became concerned when Knowles became involved in SB's IEP terms, rather than SB's parents. Knowles spoke directly to SB's teacher about 31 32 SB's behavior, which was outside the scope of Knowles' professional duties. 33 Knowles' work duties were to support middle school and high school students at

1	other schools. After attending several meetings focused on SB, Knowles'		
2	supervisor directed Knowles not to participate in any additional meetings		
3	regarding SB without parental permission.		
4			
5	6. On most school days, during the 2019-20 school year, Knowles dropped off and		
6	picked up SB from school in Knowles' personal automobile without district		
7	authorization. In December 2019, Knowles traveled to California for vacation		
8	with SB and without SB's parents. Knowles also purchased clothing and books for		
9	SB.		
10			
11	CONCLUSIONS OF LAW		
12	Edward J. Knowles' failure to report suspected child abuse as described in		
13	paragraph three (3) above constitutes Gross Neglect of Duty in violation of ORS		
14	342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(5) (Use		
15	professional judgment), OAR 584-020-0025(2)(e) (Using district lawful and		
16	reasonable rules and regulations), and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(s) (Failing to report		
17	child abuse pursuant to ORS 419B.010).		
18	The conduct described in paragraphs four (4), five (5), and six (6) constitutes		
19	gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS $342.175(1)(b)$; OAR $584-020-0040(4)(n)$ as it		
20	incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(1) (Recognize the worth and dignity of all persons		
21	and respect for each individual), OAR 584-020-0010(5) (Use professional judgment),		
22	OAR 584-020-0025(2)(e) (Using district lawful and reasonable rules and regulations)		
23	and OAR 584-020-0030(2)(b) (Skills in communicating with administrators, students,		
24	staff, parents and other patrons) ; OAR 584-020-0040(4)(0) as it incorporates OAR		
25	584-020-0035(1)(b) (Refrain from exploiting professional relationships with any		
26	student for personal gain, or in support of persons or issues), OAR 584-020-		
27	0035(1)(c)(A) (Not demonstrating or expressing professionally inappropriate interest		
28	in a student's personal life), OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(D) (Honoring appropriate adult		
29	boundaries with students in conduct and conversations at all times).		
30	The Commission's authority to impose discipline in this matter is based upon		
31	ORS 342.175.		

32

1	FINAL ORDER
2	The Commission hereby denies Edward J. Knowles' application and revokes
3	Edward J. Knowles' right to apply for an Oregon educator license.
4	
5	IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 29^{th} day of September, 2022.
6	TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION
7	
8	
	By: Anthony & Rosilez
9	By:
10	
11	Dr. Anthony Rosilez, Executive Director
12	
13 14	
15	NOTICE OF APPEAL OR RIGHTS
16	
17	YOU ARE ENTITLED TO JUDICIAL REVIEW OF THIS ORDER. JUDICIAL REVIEW MAY
18	BE OBTAINED BY FILING A PETITION FOR REVIEW WITHIN 60 DAYS FROM THE
19	SERVICE OF THIS ORDER. JUDICIAL REVIEW IS PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF
20	ORS 183.482 TO THE OREGON COURT OF APPEALS.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that I served the foregoing notice of final order, certified by me as such, by mailing U.S. First Class Mail and U.S. Certified Mail—Return Receipt Requested, addressed to:

Edward J. Knowles 5140 SE 128th Avenue Portland, OR 97236

Dated this ______ _day of September, 2022.

By Icefire

Administrative Specialist

PAGE 1- CERTIFICATE OF MAILING - EDWARD J. KNOWLES