

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    )        PUBLIC REPRIMAND  
6 ROBERT W. BATEASE                               )        AND PROBATION  
7

8  
9                   On December 23, 2021, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission  
10 (Commission) issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Robert Batease (Batease) in  
11 which the Commission charged him with Gross Neglect of Duty. The Notice was sent via  
12 U.S. First Class Mail and U.S. Certified Mail Receipt 7021 0350 0000 8183 8077 to the  
13 address on file with the Commission. The Notice designated the Commission file as the  
14 record for purposes of proving a prima facie case. The Certified Mail receipt was returned to  
15 the Commission as claimed and a “R. Batease” signed for the letter. The first-class mail was  
16 not returned to the Commission and assumed delivered. The Notice of Opportunity of  
17 Hearing, dated December 23, 2021, and signed by Anthony Rosilez, Executive Director,  
18 stated:

19                   “IF A REQUEST FOR HEARING IS NOT RECEIVED WITHIN THIS 21-DAY  
20 PERIOD, YOUR RIGHT TO A HEARING SHALL BE CONSIDERED WAIVED  
21 UNLESS YOUR FAILURE TO REQUEST A HEARING WAS BEYOND YOUR  
22 REASONABLE CONTROL. IF YOU DO NOT REQUEST A HEARING, WITHDRAW  
23 YOUR REQUEST FOR HEARING, IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR AT A HEARING, OR  
24 NOTIFY THE COMMISSION THAT YOU WILL NOT APPEAR AT HEARING, THE  
25 COMMISSION WILL ADOPT AN ORDER OF DEFAULT WHICH MAY INCLUDE  
26 THE REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF YOUR LICENSE OR OTHER  
27 DISCIPLINE.”  
28

29 Batease did not request a hearing. The Commission, therefore, finds Batease to be in default  
30 and enters the following findings of fact, conclusions of law, and final order, based on the  
31 files and records of the Commission concerning this matter.  
32

33   **FINDINGS OF FACT**

- 34 1. The Commission has licensed Batease since May 3, 1995. You currently hold a  
35 Professional Teaching License, with an endorsement in Social Studies (PK-12), valid  
36 from December 22, 2020 through December 21, 2025. During all relevant times,  
37 Batease was employed by the Ukiah School District (USD).  
38  
39 2. On December 22, 2020, TSPC received an Oregon Department of Human Services  
40 (DHS) cross-report alleging misconducted against Ukiah School District social

1 studies educator, Robert Batease. Specifically, the report alleged that Batease  
2 engaged in boundary violations with students. The report indicated that Batease had  
3 hugged a female student, AK, from behind, making her feel uncomfortable.  
4 Additionally, it was reported that Batease told a seventeen-year-old student, AK, that  
5 if he raised her grade up from a lower grade level she would “owe him”. AK reported  
6 this comment made her feel uncomfortable and stated she believed Batease was  
7 insinuating she would need to pay him back with sexual favors. Finally, it was alleged  
8 that Batease called AK on the phone, in front of other students, which caused her  
9 embarrassment and caused her to feel uncomfortable.

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11  
12 3. Investigation determined the following:

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- 14 • On approximately March 23, 2021 and March 25, 2021, Batease hugged AK
- 15 from behind on two separate incidents in front of other students.
- 16 • Per AK’s testimony, the hugs were unsolicited and unwanted and made her
- 17 feel uncomfortable.
- 18 • Witnesses report Batease hugging other female students in an “unannounced”
- 19 manner on several occasions.
- 20 • Batease admitted to district investigators that he told AK that she “owed him”
- 21 when discussing raising her grade but denied that he meant it in a sexual way.
- 22 Batease reported that he often joked with all his students about owing him
- 23 (things like sodas) when they asked about raising their grade.
- 24 • Batease also admitted to district investigators that he called AK on the phone
- 25 but reported that he had only done this in private, not in front of other
- 26 students. Batease reported that he did this to discuss AK’s missing
- 27 assignments and grades.
- 28 • The Umatilla County Sheriff’s office reviewed this matter and concluded that
- 29 no criminal conduct had occurred.
- 30
- 31

32 4. Batease interviewed with Commission investigative staff on October 13, 2021. During  
33 the interview, Batease admitted the information listed in section three (3) above was  
34 accurate. Batease reported that he did call AK, had given her a hug from behind, and  
35 had told her, jokingly, that she “owed him” when discussing how she could raise her  
36 grade. Batease reported that none of his actions had been done to make AK feel  
37 uncomfortable and stated that he had no sexual or romantic interest in AK. Batease  
38 reported that he never had any intentions of singling out any students, or treating  
39 AK, or any other student with favoritism. Batease expressed regret for hugging AK  
40 and making her feel uncomfortable and stated that in the future he will not engage in  
41 physical contact with students. Batease reported that he feels like he is being  
42 targeted by district administration and indicated he felt like he was being forced to  
43 resigned.  
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46

1 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

2 The conduct described above constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS  
3 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0010(5) (Use professional judgment); and OAR 484-020-  
4 0040(4)(o) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(D) (Honoring appropriate adult  
5 boundaries with students in conduct and conversations at all times).


6  
7 The Commission's authority to impose discipline in this matter is based upon ORS  
8 342.175.

9 **FINAL ORDER**

10 The Commission hereby issues a public reprimand upon Robert W. Batease's Oregon  
11 educator license and immediately places Batease on probation for a period of two (2) years.

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13 IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 16<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2022.

14 **TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION**

15  
16 By:   
17 Dr. Anthony Rosilez, Executive Director  
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21 **NOTICE OF APPEAL OR RIGHTS**

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