1 BEFORE THE TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION 2 OF THE STATE OF OREGON 3 4 In the Matter of the DEFAULT ORDER OF 5 Educator License of) SUSPENSION 6 LENOUE, MATTHEW R.) 7 8 9 On February 23, 2023, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission 10 (Commission) issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Matthew R. Lenoue, 11 (Lenoue) 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 1992 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 Certified Mail receipt was returned to the Commission signed. The regular first-class mail was not returned to the Commission, and assumed delivered. 16 17 The Notice of Opportunity of Hearing, dated February 23, 2023, and signed by Anthony 18 Rosilez, Executive Director, 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 UNLESS YOUR FAILURE TO REQUEST A HEARING WAS BEYOND YOUR 21 REASONABLE CONTROL. IF YOU DO NOT REQUEST A HEARING, 22 23 WITHDRAW YOUR REQUEST FOR HEARING, OR IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR 24 AT A HEARING, OR NOTIFY THE COMMISSION THAT YOU WILL NOT 25 APPEAR AT HEARING, THE COMMISSION WILL ADOPT AN ORDER OF DEFAULT WHICH MAY INCLUDE THE REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF 26 YOUR LICENSE OR OTHER DISCIPLINE." 27 28 29 To date, as of the writing of this default order, the Commission has yet to receive a response from Lenoue. The Commission, therefore, finds Lenoue to be in default and 30 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 FINDING OF FACT 34 1. The Commission has licensed Lenoue since August 22, 2016. Lenoue currently holds 35 36 a Preliminary Teaching License with an endorsement in Special Education – Generalist, (PK-12). The license was issued on December 18, 2020 and expires on 37

1		December 21, 2024. During all relevant times, Lenoue was employed by the Dallas
2		School District (DSD).
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4	2.	On June 14, 2021 the Commission received a School District Misconduct Report
5		from the DSD regarding Matthew Lenoue, a teacher at Dallas High School (DHS).
6		The report alleges that on June 11, 2021, Lenoue approached a female staff member,
7		straddled her lap, ran his hands up her shirt and fondled her breasts. The report
8		states that the Dallas Police Department (DPD) was contacted, and Lenoue was
9		arrested on charges of Harassment and Sexual Abuse.
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11	3.	Investigation by DSD and DPD documented the following:
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13		 Lenoue and Stephanie Thomas (Thomas) were close friends for years prior
14		to this incident.
15		 Thomas worked as a Special Education Assistance at DHS.
16		 Lenoue worked as a Special Education Teacher at DHS.
17		 Thomas reported that Lenoue was going through a divorce.
18		 Lenoue and Thomas had discussed dating but had chosen to remain
19		friends.
20		 On June 11, 2021 Thomas was alone with Lenoue in his classroom on a
21		work break, sitting on a rocking chair with her legs up on a stool in front of
22		him.
23		 Lenoue walked over to Thomas, stepped over her legs, straddling her.
24		 Lenoue began to rub her clothed legs and thighs and worked his hands up
25		to her upper thighs and groin.
26		 Thomas told Lenoue to stop and told him "no."
27		 Thomas attempted to push his hands away from her.
28		 Lenoue continued to touch Thomas and placed his hand on her clothed
29		vagina and rubbed it for 3-4 seconds.
30		 Lenoue then groped Thomas' clothed breasts with his hands.
31		 Thomas then answered a phone call to her cell phone.

1 While Thomas was on the phone Thomas slid his hands under her shirt 2 and bra and groped her naked breasts. 3 Thomas left Lenoue's classroom and confided in a friend what had 4 happened and reported the incident to DHS administration. 5 DHS placed you on administrative leave. Lenoue sent a text message to Thomas, apologizing for his actions, and 6 7 acknowledged that she had told him no, yet he continued to touch her. 8 DPD was notified of the incident and conducted an investigation. 9 Lenoue was arrested on two counts of Sexual Abuse in the first degree, two 10 counts of Attempt to Commit a Class B Felony, two counts of Sexual Abuse 11 in the third degree, and two counts of Attempt to Commit a Class A 12 Misdemeanor and Harassment. 13 On June 2, 2022, Lenoue pled guilty to one count of Harassment and was 14 sentenced to thirty (30) days of suspended jail time and five (5) years 15 probation. The remaining charges were dismissed. 16 Prior to this incident, Lenoue submitted his resignation to DSD on May 17 25, 2021, with an effective date of June 17, 2021. 18 19 20 4. Lenoue interviewed with TSPC investigative staff on November 8, 2022. During the interview Lenoue reported that he misread Thomas thinking she was enjoying his 21 22 actions. Lenoue reported that he felt like he was led on by Thomas but accepts what happened and admitted that this should have never taken place at school. In the 23 interview he denied touching Thomas's vagina but did admit to touching her breasts. 24 25 Lenoue reported that he agreed to plead guilty to the Harassment charge because he was facing 7 years in prison if he had been found guilty of all of the criminal charges 26 he had been arrested for. Lenoue reported that he has no intentions of teaching 27 anymore after this incident. 28

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1	CONCLUSIONS OF LAW
2	The conduct described above constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation
3	of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-
4	0010(1) (Recognize the worth and dignity of all persons and respect for each
5	individual), OAR 584-020-0010(5) (Use professional judgment), and OAR 584-
6	020-0025(2)(e) (Using district lawful and reasonable rules and regulations.)
7	
8 9	The Commission's authority to impose discipline in this matter is based
0	upon ORS 342.175.
1	FINAL ORDER
2	The Commission hereby suspends Lenoue's Oregon teaching license for a period
3	of six (6) months. Additionally, the Commission will require completion of a Sexual
4	Harassment training course to be completed as a condition of reinstatement.
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.6	IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 28 day of April, 2023.
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8	TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION
[9 20	By:
21 22 23	NOTICE OF APPEAL OR RIGHTS
23 24 25 26	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.