

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

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In the Matter of the)	STIPULATION OF FACTS AND
Educator License of)	FINAL ORDER OF
COURTNEY THIELEN)	PUBLIC REPRIMAND

On December 27, 2021, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) received a report from the Bethel School District (District) indicating Courtney Thielen (Thielen) may have engaged in professional misconduct. Specifically, the district reported Thielen resigned and left her position without providing the District sixty (60) days’ notice.

After review of the matters alleged, Thielen and the Commission agree that their respective interests, together with the public interest, are best served by a stipulation to certain facts and the imposition of a Public Reprimand.

This Order sets forth the facts upon which the parties have agreed and the sanction to be imposed. Thielen stipulates that there are sufficient facts contained in the Commission’s files and records to support the findings of fact and conclusions of law set forth below. In entering into this stipulation, Thielen waives the right to a hearing to contest the findings of fact, conclusions of law and order set forth below.

By signing below, Thielen acknowledges, understands, stipulates, and agrees to the following: (i) she has been fully advised of her rights to a hearing to contest the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order set forth below, and fully and finally waives all such rights and any rights to appeal or otherwise challenge this Stipulation of Facts and Final Order of Public Reprimand (Stipulation and Final Order); (ii) this Stipulation and Final Order is a public document and disclosed to the public upon request by the Commission; (iii) this Stipulation and Final Order is contingent upon and subject to approval and adoption by the Commission. If the Commission does not approve and adopt this Stipulation and Final Order, then neither Thielen nor the Commission are bound by the terms herein; (iv) she has fully read this Stipulation and Final Order, and understands it completely; (v) she voluntarily, without any force or duress, enters into this Stipulation and Final Order and consents to issuance and entry of the Stipulated Final Order below; (vi) she states that no promise or representation has been made to induce her to sign this Stipulation and Final Order; and (vii) she has consulted with an attorney regarding this Stipulation and Final Order and has been fully

1 advised with regard to her rights thereto, or waives any and all rights to consult with an
2 attorney prior to entering into this Stipulation and Final Order and issuance and entry of
3 the Stipulated Final Order below.

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5 **STIPULATION OF FACTS**

- 6 1. The Commission has licensed Courtney Thielen since April 5, 2021. Thielen
7 currently holds a Preliminary Teaching License, with an endorsement in World
8 Language: Spanish (PK-12), valid from April 5, 2021, through March 24, 2025.
9 During all relevant times, Thielen was employed by the Bethel School District
10 (BSD).
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- 12 2. On December 27, 2021, the Commission received a report from the BSD
13 indicating Thielen may have engaged in professional misconduct. Specifically, the
14 district reported Thielen resigned and left her position without providing the
15 district sixty (60) days' notice.
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- 17 3. Investigation determined that Thielen accepted a one (1) year, full-time teaching
18 position with the BSD for the 2021-22 school year which was split between Shasta
19 Middle School and Cascade Middle School. On October 5, 2021, Thielen informed
20 administrators at Cascade Middle school she would not be returning to their
21 school because of the students' behaviors, lack of classroom support and
22 resources. Thielen continued to provide assistance to staff until a replacement
23 teacher was found.
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- 25 4. On October 6, 2021, Thielen informed the BSD that she would continue to work
26 the position at Shasta Middle School, but that it needed to be increased from a .5
27 position to a .7 or full-time position to financially support her and her family.
28 After learning later in the month, the position time could not be increased,
29 Thielen notified Shasta Middle School administrators and the District
30 Superintendent she would be pursuing other employment opportunities.
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- 32 5. On November 26, 2021, Thielen secured a full time job outside of education, and
33 informed the BSD that she was resigning the half-time position at Shasta Middle
34 School effective December 30, 2021. After learning of the sixty (60) days' rule,
35 Thielen wrote the school and explained she would be unable to meet this

1 requirement due to the timeline of her new job opportunity. Thielen was able to
2 provide thirty-five (35) days' notice.

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4 IT IS SO STIPULATED:

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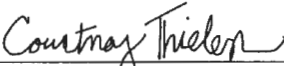
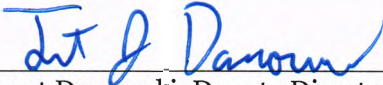
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	6/23/2022
_____ Courtney Thielen	_____ Date
	07/15/2022
_____ Trent Danowski, Deputy Director Teacher Standards and Practices Commission	_____ Date

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CONCLUSION OF LAW

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The conduct described above constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*), OAR 584-020-0025(2)(e) (*Using district lawful and reasonable rules and regulations*); and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(j) (*Resignation from a contract in violation of ORS 342.553*).

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

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ORDER

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The Commission adopts and incorporates herein the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, and based thereon, imposes a Public Reprimand on Courtney Thielen's Oregon educator license.

Issued and dated this 14 day of October, 2022.

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TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

STATE OF OREGON

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By  _____
Dr. Anthony Rosilez, Executive Director