| 1 2 3 | BEFORE THE TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF OREGON | | |
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| 4 5 6 7 8 | 4 In the Matter of the Educator) 5 License of) 7 PETER R. PIAZZA) | DEFAULT ORDER OF DENIAL OF APPLICATION AND REVOCATION OF RIGHT TO APPLY FOR AN EDUCATOR LICENSE | |
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| 10 | | ds and Practices Commission | |
| 11 | , , | (Commission) issued a Notice of Denial of Reinstatement and Opportunity for Hearing | |
| 12 | to Peter R. Piazza (Piazza) in which the Commission charged Piazza with Gross Neglect | | |
| 13 | of Duty. The Notice was sent via U.S. First Class Mail and U.S. Certified Mail to the | | |
| 14 | | | |
| 15 | record for purposes of proving a prima facie case. Neither the Certified Mail nor the | | |
| 16 | First-Class mail were returned to the Commission, and both were assumed to have been | | |
| 17 | delivered. The Notice of Opportunity of Hearing, dated May 25, 2022, and signed by | | |
| 18 | Anthony Rosilez, Executive Director, stated: | | |
| 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 | "IF A REQUEST FOR HEARING IS NOT RECEIVED WITHIN THIS 21-DAY PERIOD, YOUR RIGHT TO A HEARING SHALL BE CONSIDERED WAIVED UNLESS YOUR FAILURE TO REQUEST A HEARING WAS BEYOND YOUR REASONABLE CONTROL. IF YOU DO NOT REQUEST A HEARING, WITHDRAW YOUR REQUEST FOR HEARING, IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR AT A HEARING, OR NOTIFY THE COMMISSION THAT YOU WILL NOT APPEAR AT HEARING, THE COMMISSION WILL ADOPT AN ORDER OF DEFAULT WHICH MAY INCLUDE THE REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF YOUR LICENSE OR OTHER DISCIPLINE." | | |
| 30 | Piazza did not request a hearing. The C | Commission, therefore, finds Piazza to be in | |
| 31 | default and enters the following findings of fa | ct, conclusions of law, and final order, | |
| 32 | based on the files and records of the Commiss | sion concerning this matter. | |
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| 34 | | FINDINGS OF FACT | |
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| 37 | | ded an affidavit stating why he was seeking | |
| 38 | 3X reinstatement. On February 7, 2022, I | Piazza was interviewed by a Commission | |

investigator. On April 1, 2022, the Commission considered Piazza's application, investigative reports, and Piazza's support materials for reinstatement of his licensure. The history of Piazza's past cases and facts that supported the Commission's actions, included the following:

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A. On June 5, 2006, the Commission received a patron complaint alleging misconduct against Piazza, an educator at Grant Union High School. The complaint alleged that Piazza had physically struck a student during track practice in front of other students. It was further alleged that the strike caused visible injury to the student. According to the Grant County Sheriff's Office investigation into this matter, Piazza reportedly got into an argument with a student (NP) and struck NP twice, once in the face and once in the stomach with a closed fist. Multiple student and staff witnessed the incident and attested to what they had witnessed during the investigation. In conjunction with this investigation, TSPC also reviewed additional historic complaints of misconduct against Piazza. In 2004, it was reported and confirmed that Piazza pulled a student (LM) on his wrestling team behind the bleachers and began yelling at him "face to face" and pushed LM away using his hands (with open palms) three separate times. It was reported that Piazza had done this in response to LM losing a wrestling match. Additionally, in October of 2008, it was reported and confirmed that Piazza used his district computer to send and received multiple inappropriate sexually explicit messages and images with an adult female. Piazza did this during school hours, with students present in his classroom. The messages contained detailed descriptions of sex acts that were going to be performed on each other and included pictures of woman's breasts and couples engaged in sexual intercourse. The Grant County District Attorney's Office declined to pursue criminal charges in these matters, and Piazza resigned his position with the district.

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B. On February 4, 2010, upon advice from his attorney, Adam Arms, Piazza entered into a Stipulated Order agreement with the Commission that resulted in the revocation of his teaching license and revocation of his right to reapply

| 1 | for one year. The stipulated agreement established that Piazza's conduct | |
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| 2 | constituted gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584- | |
| 3 | 020-0040(4)(d) (Unreasonable physical force against students, fellow | |
| 4 | employees, or visitors to the school, except as permitted under ORS 339.250 | |
| 5 | OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates in OAR 584-020-0010(5) (Use | |
| 6 | professional judgment). OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR | |
| 7 | 584-020-0010(1) (Recognize the worth and dignity of all persons and | |
| 8 | respect for each individual). OAR 584-020-0040(4)(q) (Knowing and | |
| 9 | unauthorized use of school computer equipment to receive, store, produce or | |
| 10 | send sexually explicit materials.) | |
| 11 | | |
| 12 | CONCLUSIONS OF LAW | |
| 13 | Peter R. Piazza's conduct described above is grounds for denial of his application | |
| 14 | under ORS 342.143(2). The Commission denies Piazza's reinstatement application for | |
| 15 | the following reasons: | |
| 16 17 18 19 | Piazza failed to sufficiently explain the steps he has personally and professionally taken to prevent a reoccurrence of violence against students. | |
| 20 21 22 23 | Piazza failed to provide any documentation of treatment completed or any letters of recommendation. | |
| 24 25 | c. The conduct Piazza engaged in that resulted in revocation. | |
| 26 | The Commission's authority to impose discipline in this matter is based upon | |
| 27 | ORS 342.175. | |
| 28 | FINAL ORDER | |
| 29 | The Commission hereby denies Peter R. Piazza's reinstatement application for a | |
| 30 | Oregon educator license and revokes Peter R. Piazza's Right to Apply for an Oregon | |
| 31 | Educator License. | |
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| 33 | IT IS SO ORDERED THIS day of July, 2023. | |
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TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION 1 2 Dr. Anthony Rosilez, Executive Director 3 7 NOTICE OF APPEAL OR RIGHTS 8 9 YOU ARE ENTITLED TO JUDICIAL REVIEW OF THIS ORDER. JUDICIAL REVIEW MAY 10 BE OBTAINED BY FILING A PETITION FOR REVIEW WITHIN 60 DAYS FROM THE 11 SERVICE OF THIS ORDER. JUDICIAL REVIEW IS PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ORS 183.482 THE OREGON COURT OF APPEALS. 12