

1 BEFORE THE TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION
2 OF THE STATE OF OREGON
3

4 In the Matter of the) STIPULATION OF FACTS AND FINAL
5 Educator License of) ORDER OF DENIAL OF APPLICATION
6 SARAH SWANSON-SUHRSTEDT) FOR REINSTATEMENT AND
7) REVOCATION OF RIGHT TO APPLY
8) FOR LICENSURE
9

10 On July 21, 2023, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) issued
11 a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Sarah Swanson-Suhrstedt (Swanson-Suhrstedt) regarding
12 a June 20, 2023, Commission decision to deny Swanson-Suhrstedt reinstatement of an Oregon
13 educator license.

14 After review of the matters, Swanson-Suhrstedt and the Commission agree that their
15 respective interests, together with the public interest, are best served by a stipulation to certain
16 facts, and a condition for Swanson-Suhrstedt to apply for reinstatement of her license.

17 This Order sets forth the facts upon which the parties have agreed and the condition for
18 application for reinstatement. Swanson-Suhrstedt stipulates to the findings of fact below.

19 By signing below, Swanson-Suhrstedt acknowledges, understands, stipulates, and agrees
20 to the following: (i) she has been fully advised of her rights to a hearing to contest the findings of
21 fact, and order set forth below, and fully and finally waives all such rights and any rights to
22 appeal or otherwise challenge this Stipulation of Facts and Final Order of Denial of
23 Reinstatement Application and Revocation of Right to Apply for Licensure (Stipulation and Final
24 Order); (ii) this Stipulation and Final Order is a public document and disclosed to the public
25 upon request by the Commission; (iii) this Stipulation and Final Order is contingent upon and
26 subject to approval and adoption by the Commission. If the Commission does not approve and
27 adopt this Stipulation and Final Order, then neither Swanson-Suhrstedt nor the Commission are
28 bound by the terms herein; (iv) she has fully read this Stipulation and Final Order, and
29 understands it completely; (v) she voluntarily, without any force or duress, enters into this
30 Stipulation and Final Order and consents to issuance and entry of the Stipulated Final Order
31 below; (vi) she states that no promise or representation has been made to induce her to sign this
32 Stipulation and Final Order; and (vii) she has consulted with an attorney regarding this
33 Stipulation and Final Order and has been fully advised with regard to her rights thereto, or
34 waives any and all rights to consult with an attorney prior to entering into this Stipulation and
35 Final Order and issuance and entry of the Stipulated Final Order below.
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1 **HISTORY OF COMMISSION DISCIPLINE**

- 2 1. On March 28, 2012, the Commission received a report from the Central Pont School
3 District alleging Swanson-Suhrstedt engaged in sexual conduct with a student. The
4 Commission subsequently initiated an investigation. The investigation determined that
5 on an unspecified date in February 2012, Swanson-Suhrstedt engaged in sexual relations
6 with an eighteen (18) year old student in the District.
7
- 8 2. The investigation determined that between February and March 2012, Swanson-
9 Suhrstedt engaged in inappropriate conversations with a different eighteen (18) year old
10 student via text messages and a cell phone communication application. These
11 conversations were sexual in nature.
12
- 13 3. The investigation determined that in February and March of 2012, Swanson-Suhrstedt
14 engaged in inappropriate conversations with another student. These conversations were
15 sexual in nature.
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- 17 4. On February 11, 2013, Swanson-Suhrstedt's attorney in the matter with the Commission,
18 notified the Commission investigator Swanson-Suhrstedt would not provide an interview
19 with the Commission.
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- 21 5. On July 26, 2013, Swanson-Suhrstedt's investigation came before the Commission. The
22 Commission recommended to revoke her right to apply for an Oregon educator license.
23 On December 13, 2013, a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing was sent to Swanson-
24 Suhrstedt, and she acknowledged receipt. Swanson-Suhrstedt did not request a hearing.
25
- 26 6. On January 10, 2014, and the Commission adopted a default order revoking Swanson-
27 Suhrstedt's right to apply for an educator license. The default order established that the
28 conduct described in paragraphs 1-3 constituted gross neglect of duty in violation of ORS
29 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(1)
30 (Recognize the worth and dignity of all persons and respect for each individual), OAR
31 584-020-0010(5) (Use professional judgment); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(o) as it
32 incorporates OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(B) (Not accepting or giving or exchanging
33 romantic or overly personal gifts or notes with a student), OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(D)
34 (Honoring appropriate adult boundaries with students in conduct and conversations at all

1 times); and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(f) (Any sexual conduct with a student) as defined at
2 the time by OAR 584-020-0005(5).

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- 4 7. On June 22, 2022, the Commission received Swanson-Suhrstedt's application for
5 reinstatement of licensure, which included a written statement by her, a testimonial from
6 her employer, and a log of professional development activities she had completed.
7 Swanson-Suhrstedt also provided a mental health evaluation and risk assessment based
8 on partial information self-reported by Swanson-Suhrstedt. On May 3, 2022, Swanson-
9 Suhrstedt was interviewed by Commission investigators and denied the allegation of a
10 sexual relationship with a student and conversations of a sexual nature with another
11 student. Swanson-Suhrstedt did take responsibility for texts and other digital exchanges
12 of a sexual nature with students. On June 22, 2022, the Commission considered
13 Swanson-Suhrstedt's application, investigative reports, and her support materials for
14 reinstatement of her license. The Commission recommended to deny Swanson-
15 Suhrstedt's reinstatement application and revoke her right to apply for an Oregon
16 educator license.
- 17
- 18 8. On July 27, 2022, a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing was sent to Swanson-Suhrstedt,
19 and she acknowledged receipt. On August 1, 2022, Martin Dolan, Swanson-Suhrstedt's
20 attorney in the matter with the Commission, requested a hearing. On August 3, 2022,
21 Dolan indicated Swanson-Suhrstedt wished to resolve the matter through a stipulated
22 order. Swanson-Suhrstedt and the Commission agreed in the interest of both parties, to
23 allow the withdrawal of her application and for her to not apply for a reinstatement of her
24 Oregon educator license for four (4) months from the date the order became effective. On
25 October 14, 2022, the Commission adopted the Stipulation of Facts and Order Allowing
26 Application Withdrawal.
- 27
- 28 9. On April 14, 2023, Swanson-Suhrstedt applied to the Commission for reinstatement of
29 her teaching license, and a Commission investigation was initiated. During the
30 investigation, Swanson-Suhrstedt provided materials supporting her request for
31 reinstatement. Swanson-Suhrstedt provided a mental health evaluation and risk
32 assessment based on partial information self-reported by Swanson-Suhrstedt. Swanson-
33 Suhrstedt participated in a Commission interview to explain her history as a licensed
34 teacher, what actions she had taken to convince the Commission she was fit to hold a

1 license, and denied the allegation of a sexual relationship with a student and
2 conversations of a sexual nature with another student. Swanson-Suhrstedt did take
3 responsibility for texts, digital exchanges and conversations of a sexual nature with some
4 students. On June 20, 2023, Swanson-Suhrstedt's request for reinstatement came before
5 the Commission at their quarterly meeting. Swanson-Suhrstedt was requested to appear
6 before the Commission at this meeting to provide an oral explanation as to why she
7 should be reinstated and for her to be available for questions from the Commissioners.
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9 10. The Commission denied Swanson-Suhrstedt's application for reinstatement because the
10 information she submitted, along with her reinstatement documents, did not establish
11 that she was eligible to hold an educator's license. The information in Swanson-
12 Suhrstedt's reinstatement application indicates, but is not limited to, the following
13 reasons for denial of her reinstatement:
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- 15 a. Swanson-Suhrstedt failed to take responsibility for her past conduct and she has
16 not proven to the Commission that she has addressed the issues that led to
17 revocation of her license to ensure that similar conduct will not reoccur;
- 18 b. Swanson-Suhrstedt made statements on a 2022 employment application in which
19 she provided false statements regarding the prior police, district, and TSPC
20 investigation of the conduct that led to the revocation of her license;
- 21 c. Swanson-Suhrstedt minimized the seriousness of the conduct that led to her
22 revocation by stating on a June 2022 employment application that the subject
23 student was from another school, that she did not have direct supervisory
24 authority over him, that she did not teach him, and that he was over eighteen (18)
25 at the time;
- 26 d. Swanson-Suhrstedt provided mental health evaluations and risk assessments in
27 support of her reinstatement. The evaluations and assessments are insufficient to
28 support Swanson-Suhrstedt's reinstatement because she did not provide the
29 evaluator with the background information independent of her own statements;
- 30 e. The nature of the conduct that led to Swanson-Suhrstedt's revocation is basis to
31 deny reinstatement because the conduct is inconsistent with the character and
32 traits the Commission expects of licensed educators;
- 33 f. Swanson-Suhrstedt's reinstatement application fails to establish to the
34 Commission that she should be reinstated to hold an educator license.

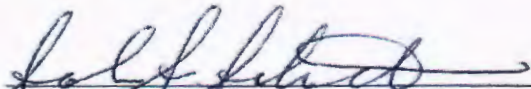
1 IT IS SO STIPULATED:

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Sarah-Swanson-Suhrstedt

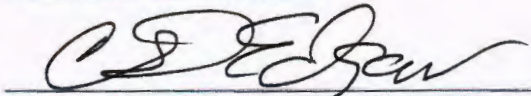
10/5/2023
Date

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Cristina Edgar, Director of Professional Practices
Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

10/6/2023
Date

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FINAL ORDER

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The Commission hereby denies Sarah Swanson-Suhrstedt's reinstatement application for an Oregon educator license and revokes Sarah Swanson-Suhrstedt's Right to Apply for an Oregon Educator License.

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IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 20 day of October, 2023.
TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

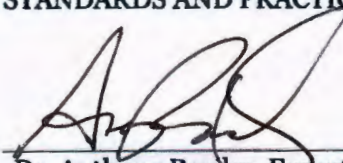
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By: 
Dr. Anthony Rosalez, Executive Director