



1 (020), is valid from August 28, 2013, through August 27, 2018. During all relevant times,  
2 Meeuwsen was employed by the St. Helens School District.

3 2. On March 19, 2014, the Commission received information from the St. Helens School  
4 District indicating Meeuwsen may have committed acts which constitute gross neglect of  
5 duty. Commission and District investigations determined the following conduct:

6 a. On or about January 26, 2014, while beginning a new semester of Meeuwsen's  
7 citizenship course, Meeuwsen openly questioned a Latina student (ML) about her  
8 immigration status. Meeuwsen explained the goal of the lesson was to help  
9 students empathize and understand the challenges immigrants face to gain  
10 citizenship. Meeuwsen's questioning of ML included asking her if she was  
11 "legal", if she had a "green card", if she had a "visa", and what she was doing to  
12 become a citizen. This dialog took place in front of the entire classroom and  
13 caused significant discomfort and embarrassment for ML.

14 b. During the course of the 2014 investigation, another Hispanic student, PG,  
15 complained that she felt set apart in class by how Meeuwsen discussed pay  
16 disparity and how female Hispanics were statistically the poorest of all the  
17 minority / gender combinations. Meeuwsen explained that he was trying to teach  
18 a lesson on inequality and the need for equity, and was leading to a discussion of  
19 affirmative action. Students reported Meeuwsen stated something like "so you  
20 don't want to be a Hispanic in America", looked over at PG and said "Sorry P". PG  
21 stated that Meeuwsen's conduct made her feel embarrassed and uncomfortable in  
22 Meeuwsen's classroom.

23 c. School officials reported overhearing Meeuwsen, during the 2012-2013 school  
24 year, make a comment in the classroom that Caucasian students need to make  
25 more babies in the future because the Asian and Hispanic populations are rapidly  
26 growing while the Caucasian population is shrinking. School officials met with  
27 Meeuwsen after this and provided counsel.

28 3. Meeuwsen has sought out learning opportunities to help him improve his methods of  
29 teaching and discussing sensitive but important topics without causing discomfort or  
30 embarrassment to any students. Information indicates Meeuwsen took steps to repair  
31 any damage his conduct may have caused in his teaching relationship with involved  
32 students.

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IT IS SO STIPULATED:

Keith Edward Meeuwsen  
Keith Edward Meeuwsen

2/1/16  
Date

Victoria Chamberlain  
Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director  
Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

2-11-16  
Date

**CONCLUSION OF LAW**

Keith Edward Meeuwsen's conduct described above constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(1) (*Recognize the worth and dignity of all persons and respect for each individual*), OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*), OAR 584-020-0025(1) (*The competent educator is a person who understands students and is able to relate to them in constructive and culturally competent ways. The competent educator establishes and maintains good rapport*), OAR 584-020-0025(2)(e) (*Using district lawful and reasonable rules and regulations*), and OAR 584-020-0030(2)(b) (*Skill in communicating with administrators, students, staff, parents, and other patrons*).

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

**ORDER**

The Commission adopts and incorporates herein the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, and based thereon, imposes a Public Reprimand on Keith Edward Meeuwsen's Teaching License.

Furthermore, the Commission imposes a period of one (1) year of probation upon Meeuwsen to commence from the date this order is signed by the Commission and subject to the following conditions:

- 1 1. Meeuwsen is directed to successfully complete a Commission approved training  
2 course in the area of "Cultural Competency" within ninety days of issuance of this  
3 order.
- 4 2. Meeuwsen is required to submit a letter to the Commission both requesting  
5 termination of probation and describing what was learned from the sanction and  
6 the required training and how it will change future behavior.
- 7 3. Meeuwsen shall comply with the Standards for Competent and Ethical  
8 Performance of Oregon Educators under Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter  
9 584, Division 020.

10  
11 Issued and dated this 11<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016.

12 **TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION**  
13 **STATE OF OREGON**

14 By   
15 Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director  
16

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I served the foregoing Stipulation of Facts and Final Order of Reprimand and Probation, certified by me as such, by mailing U.S. First Class Mail and U.S. Certified Mail – Return Receipt Requested, addressed to:

Keith Edward Meeuwsen  
52024 SE Icenogle Loop  
Scappoose, OR 97056-2543

DATED this 25<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016.

By: Patty Sheldon  
Patty Sheldon  
Investigative Assistant

Certificate of Mailing – Keith Edward Meeuwsen

Data Classification Level: 1- Published  
DO: Sheldon