

STATE OF OREGON

TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

In the Matter of the	)	
Teaching License of	)	STIPULATION AND
SUSAN LYNNE WILLARD	)	ORDER OF SUSPENSION
	)	

On May 20, 1998, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) issued of Notice of Opportunity for hearing to Susan Lynne Willard in which the Commission proposed to suspend or revoke Ms. Willard's Oregon teaching license or to impose other discipline under ORS 342.177. Thereafter Ms. Willard requested a hearing through her attorney, Elizabeth McKanna. The Commission and Ms. Willard have now reviewed the issues connected with this proceeding and have determined that their respective interests and the public interest are best served by a stipulation to certain facts and a suspension of Ms. Willard's Oregon teaching license. In entering this stipulation, Ms. Willard waives her rights to a hearing and understands that the Commission will impose a sanction that includes suspension of her teaching license for a period through May 15, 1999.

FINDINGS OF FACTS

Ms. Willard and the Commission stipulate as follows:

- Ms. Willard holds a basic Oregon teaching license with endorsements in elementary education and reading.

- 1           2.    Ms. Willard was employed as a teacher with the South
- 2                    Umpqua School District from September 1987 until June
- 3                    10, 1998, when she resigned her position with the
- 4                    district.
- 5           3.    Early in her tenure with the South Umpqua School
- 6                    District, Ms. Willard began working as a volunteer with
- 7                    the Canyonville Parent Group, an organization that
- 8                    raises money and provides support to the Canyonville
- 9                    Elementary School. During the period prior to January
- 10                   1998, Ms. Willard served as treasurer to the
- 11                   organization.
- 12           4.    Between December 1995 and January 1998, Ms. Willard
- 13                    converted funds belonging to the Canyonville Parent
- 14                    Group without the knowledge of the organization, and
- 15                    she used the funds for personal purposes.
- 16           5.    In January of 1998, members of the Canyonville Parent
- 17                    Group learned of a shortage of funds in the
- 18                    organization's account, and they brought the matter to
- 19                    the attention of the school district. At that time,
- 20                    Ms. Willard acknowledged that she had misused the
- 21                    funds.
- 22           6.    On February 25, 1998, Ms. Willard entered into a
- 23                    repayment agreement with the Canyonville Parent Group
- 24                    in which she agreed to repay the sum of \$2,856.85
- 25                    according to a scheduled payment arrangement.
- 26



1 This stipulation and order is contingent upon approval of  
 2 the full Commission. If the Commission does not approve the  
 3 stipulation, the matter will be returned to the Commission for  
 4 further action, and neither Ms. Willard nor the Commission shall  
 5 be bound by any statements contained herein.

6 Susan Lynne Willard  
 7 Susan Lynne Willard

Date 10-9-98

8 David V. Myton  
 9 David V. Myton  
 10 Executive Director  
 11 Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

Date 11/5/98

12 CONCLUSION OF LAW

13 Ms. Willard converted funds to her own use belonging to the  
 14 Canyonville Parent Organization in violation of OAR 584-020-  
 15 0040(4)(b).  
 16

17 DISCUSSION

18 Ms. Willard's conduct involved dishonesty directly related  
 19 to her professional responsibilities. Accordingly, the  
 20 Commission considers this matter a serious violation of  
 21 professional standards, requiring suspension of Ms. Willard's  
 22 teaching license for a period of approximately six months. In  
 23 selecting a sanction, the Commission take into account the  
 24 following mitigating circumstances: (1) Ms. Willard has a  
 25 favorable teaching record of approximately eleven years; (2) Ms.  
 26 Willard has agreed to make restitution for the misappropriated

1 funds and has already repaid most of the funds; and (3) Ms.  
 2 Willard's misconduct was due at least in part to a compulsive  
 3 gambling problem for which she has received treatment and has  
 4 made considerable progress.

5  
 6 ORDER

7 The Oregon teaching license of Susan Lynne Willard shall be  
 8 suspended for a period commencing with the date of this order  
 9 through May 15, 1999. Upon expiration of the period of  
 10 suspension, Ms. Willard's license shall be reinstated, upon  
 11 application and payment of the reinstatement fee, and if she has  
 12 complied with Commission standards under OAR 584 Division 020,  
 13 has abstained from all gambling activities and has complied with  
 14 the terms of the repayment agreement with the Canyonville Parent  
 15 Group dated February 25, 1998.

16 Upon reinstatement of her license, Ms. Willard shall be  
 17 placed on probation for a period of one year subject to the  
 18 conditions that she comply with all standards for competent and  
 19 ethical performance of Oregon educators under OAR 584, Division  
 20 020, that she abstain from all gambling activities and that she  
 21 comply with the repayment agreement dated February 25, 1998.  
 22 Failure to comply with any condition of probation shall  
 23 constitute a basis alone for disciplinary action, up to and

24 ///  
 25 ///  
 26 ///

1 including revocation of Ms. Willard's teaching license, and  
2 subject to Ms. Willard's right to a hearing on the issue of  
3 whether or not she has violated a condition of probation.

4  
5 DATED this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of ~~November~~, 1998.  
6 *November*  
7 *December*

8 *David V. Myton*  
9 David V. Myton  
10 Executive Director  
11 Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

12/2/98  
Date

12 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

13 *Elizabeth McKanna*  
14 Elizabeth McKanna  
15 Of Attorneys for  
16 Susan Lynne Willard

October 9, 1998  
Date

16 DMP0028.PLE