

1 BEFORE THE TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

2 OF THE STATE OF OREGON

3 In the Matter of the
4 Teaching License of

5 STEPHEN CONLEE

STIPULATION, SURRENDER OF LICENSE
AND **AMENDED** ORDER OF SUSPENSION

6 On about May 12, 2000, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission)
7 received a report from the Siuslaw School District that Stephen Conlee may have engaged in
8 unprofessional conduct through his interactions with female students.

9 After reviewing the matters alleged, Mr. Conlee and the Commission have agreed that
10 their respective interests, together with the public interest, are best served through a surrender of
11 Mr. Conlee's license, a stipulation to pertinent facts and a six-month suspension of the license.
12 Mr. Conlee denies the allegations that he engaged in unprofessional conduct. However, he
13 stipulates that there are sufficient facts contained in the records and files of the Commission to
14 support the factual findings set forth below and in entering this stipulation he consents to the
15 Commission making these findings. Mr. Conlee also waives his right to a hearing and
16 understands that the Commission will adopt the findings of fact, accept the surrender of his
17 teaching license and suspend the license for a period of six months.

18 This stipulation and order is subject to approval by the Commission at its next scheduled
19 meeting. If the Commission does not adopt the stipulation and order, neither Mr. Conlee nor the
20 Commission shall be bound by any matters contained in this stipulation and order.

21 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

22 1. Mr. Conlee holds a Standard Oregon Teaching License with an endorsement in
23 Music Education.

1 2. Mr. Conlee was employed as a teacher with the Siuslaw School District from
2 August or September 1977, until his resignation, effective June 30, 2000, by the terms of a
3 resignation agreement entered into on or about September 1, 2000.

4 3. On multiple occasions from September 1995 to September 2000, while
5 Mr. Conlee was a music teacher and the high school band teacher at Siuslaw High School, he
6 engaged in inappropriate conduct of a physical and verbal nature towards female high school
7 students and female middle school students. Such behavior included: patting students on the
8 buttocks and legs; telling a student that she had sexy legs, telling students that they looked sexy
9 or that certain clothes made them look sexy, telling a student that she should wear a short skirt
10 that showed off her legs, pulling students towards him by grabbing the students' pants pockets,
11 and telling a student that he wished he were the same age so they could have a different
12 relationship.

13 4. Several of the students resigned from the band class because they were unhappy
14 with Mr. Conlee's conduct. Many of the students felt uncomfortable and intimidated by
15 Mr. Conlee's conduct

16 CONCLUSION OF LAW

17 Stephen Conlee engaged in physical conduct and verbal conduct of a sexual nature within
18 the meaning of OAR 584-020-0005(5)(e) in violation of OAR 584-020-0040(4)(f), and such
19 conduct constitutes gross neglect of duty.

20 Stephen L Conlee
Stephen Conlee

11-11-2000
Date

21 David V. Myton
David V. Myton

12/5/00
Date

1 **AMENDED ORDER**

2 The Commission accepts the voluntary surrender of Mr. Conlee's license as permitted
3 under OAR 584-050-0027. The Commission further suspends the teaching license for a period
4 of six months from [the date of this order] **November 17, 2000**. At the end of the period of
5 suspension, Mr. Conlee's license shall be reinstated upon application and a showing of the
6 following:

7 1. Mr. Conlee has undergone evaluation by a psychotherapist or medical
8 professional acceptable to the Commission. As part of the evaluation, Mr. Conlee shall furnish a
9 copy of this order to the evaluator.

10 2. The evaluator has submitted to the Commission a written report attesting that
11 Mr. Conlee is fit to work with children and teenagers and that there is a high probability
12 Mr. Conlee will not repeat inappropriate verbal or physical conduct towards students of the type
13 described in this order.

14 3. Mr. Conlee has taken at least one class or workshop dealing with sexual
15 harassment.

16 Following reinstatement of Mr. Conlee's teaching license, he shall be placed on probation
17 with the Commission for a period of four years subject to the following conditions:

18 1. Mr. Conlee shall comply with any treatment or counseling as recommended by
19 the person who completed the evaluation described above. Mr. Conlee shall furnish copies of
20 the evaluator's report and this order to the treatment provider/counselor and shall authorize and
21 sign consent forms as necessary for the treatment provider/counselor to furnish records to the
22 Commission or to discuss Mr. Conlee's treatment. But such consent shall authorize disclosure

1 only to the extent necessary for the treatment provider/counselor to identify and describe

2 Mr. Conlee's compliance with the terms of this order.

3 2. Mr. Conlee shall comply with all Standards for Competent and Ethical

4 Performance under OAR 584 Division 020.

5 3. Mr. Conlee shall provide information as requested by the Commission to verify

6 that he has complied with the conditions of probation.

7 DATED this 15th day of December 2000.

8 TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

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By: David V. Myton
David V. Myton, Executive Director

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