

BEFORE THE TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF OREGON

In the Matter of the )  
Administrative License of ) STIPULATION OF FACTS, SURRENDER OF LICENSE  
JOHN WILLIAM STARR ) AND ORDER OF SUSPENSION OF  
 ) LICENSE

On May 30, 1996, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission informed John William Starr that the Commission found sufficient evidence of violation of Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance of Oregon Educators to warrant a hearing regarding his fitness to serve as a school administrator. Mr. Starr requested a hearing on the allegations, but before a hearing date was set, the parties have agreed that their respective interest and the interests of the State are best served by a Stipulation of Facts, Surrender of License and Order of Suspension of License as set forth below.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. John William Starr holds a Standard Administrative License endorsed administrator and superintendent and valid from 1/24/95 to 2/25/2000. Starr previously held a teaching license which expired on 2/25/81.
2. During the 1995-96 school year, Starr failed to meet District expectations as principal of Lakeview High School due in part to physical and mental conditions that required extended sick leave and hospitalization.
3. During his employment with Lakeview High School, Starr suffered numerous seizures. Tests have determined that these episodes are not epileptic, but are brought on by stress.
4. Following several incidents of hospitalization in Spring 1996, Starr applied for disability retirement.
5. On April 17, 1996, Starr entered the Lake District Hospital with a loaded firearm and requested to see his physician. On May 14, 1996, in Lake County Circuit Court, he was indicted on one count of Possession of a Firearm in a Public Building, a Class C Felony. At the time this stipulation was signed this charge was pending and a trial date has been set for August 14, 1996.
6. Starr was released on his own recognizance while awaiting trial on the above indictment. In view of Mr. Starr's mental condition at the time of release, the court directed him to have no contact with: the Lake District Hospital (except with prior notice), the Lakeview School District (except the Superintendent's office), and/or the 3rd Floor of the Courthouse. The court also prohibited Starr from possession of firearms of any kind.
7. The court ordered Starr to take prescribed medications, to refrain from use of intoxicants of any kind, and to obey any directives of Lake County Mental Health.

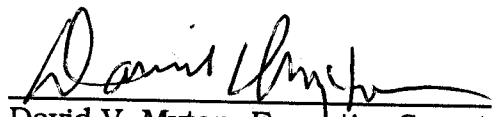
1 John William Starr enters into this Stipulation of Facts with knowledge that if the  
2 Teacher Standards and Practices Commission accepts the surrender of his license it  
3 will suspend his Oregon Administrative License endorsed in administrator and  
4 superintendent. Further, Starr agrees that he will not request reinstatement of either  
5 his administrative or his expired teaching license.

6 This Stipulation is contingent upon approval and adoption of the Order by the  
7 Commission. If the Commission does not adopt this Order, neither Mr. Starr nor the  
8 Commission will be bound by these stipulations, and Mr. Starr retains all rights to a  
9 hearing on the allegations in the Notice of Opportunity for Hearing.

10 IT IS SO STIPULATED:

11   
12 John William Starr

7-7-96  
Date

13   
14 David V. Myton, Executive Secretary  
15 Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

7/12/96  
Date

#### ULTIMATE FINDINGS OF FACT

17 John Starr lacks the physical and mental health necessary to serve as an  
18 administrator in Oregon schools.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

20 ORS 342.143 and 342.175 establish the qualifications of school administrators and  
21 authorize TSPC to require evidence of mental and physical health deemed necessary  
22 to serve as an administrator.

#### OPINION

24 As a superintendent of schools or school principal, John Starr is required to make  
25 professional decisions that affect teachers, students, and parents. Schools and  
26 communities must have confidence in educational leaders. Mr. Starr's performance in  
27 1995-96 raises serious questions about his current ability to maintain that  
28 confidence. His agreement to surrender his administrative license and to not seek  
29 reinstatement is a responsible and professional resolution to concerns about his  
30 recent performance. His decision does not detract from his earlier professional  
31 accomplishments.

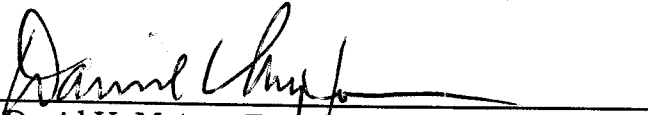
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ORDER

The Commission accepts the surrender of and suspends the Administrative License #910205 endorsed for administrator and superintendent issued to John William Starr, valid from January 25, 1995 to February 25, 2000.

Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1996.

TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

By:   
David V. Myton, Executive Secretary

DVM/cs

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that I served the foregoing order by mailing a true copy thereof certified by me as such by U. S. First Class Mail and U.S. Certified Mail with Return Receipt Requested to:

JOHN WILLIAM STARR  
235 SOUTH H STREET  
LAKEVIEW OR 97630

8 Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1996.

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By: *Charlene A. Smith*  
Charlene A. Smith  
Secretary to the Commission