

1 of the Stipulated Final Order below; (vi) he states that no promises or representation has been
2 made to induce him to sign this Stipulation and Final Order; and (vii) he has consulted with an
3 attorney regarding this Stipulation and Final Order and has been fully advised with regard to his
4 rights thereto, or waives any and all rights to consult with an attorney prior to entering into this
5 Stipulation and Final Order and issuance and entry of the Stipulated Final Order below. This
6 Order sets forth the facts upon which the parties have agreed and the sanction to be imposed.
7 Mr. Cook stipulates that there are sufficient facts contained in the Commission's files and
8 records to support the findings of fact and conclusions of law set forth below. In entering into
9 this stipulation, Mr. Cook waives the right to a hearing to contest the findings of fact,
10 conclusions of law and order set forth below.

11 **STIPULATION OF FACTS**

- 12 1. The Commission has licensed Mr. Cook since June 12, 2007. Mr. Cook recently received
13 an Initial I Teaching License with an expiration date of May 11, 2011. At all times
14 material herein, Mr. Cook was employed by the Ontario School District.
- 15 2. While employed with the Ontario School District Mr. Cook maintained a
16 www.myspace.com account on which he represented himself as a teenage boy. Mr.
17 Cook utilized school computers, school time, and school student lists to seek out and
18 contact students through this social networking account. Mr. Cook represented to
19 parents that he had authority from the school to communicate with students in this
20 manner. Mr. Cook used an internet override to allow him to use of the internet in
21 violation of district policy.
- 22 3. Mr. Cook's online communications with students discussed personal matters that had
23 the tone of peer communications rather than student-teacher communications. Mr.
24 Cook's communications also discussed the school's authority to impose discipline.
- 25 4. While engaged in online communications, one student told Mr. Cook information
26 suggesting possible suicide. Mr. Cook did not inform his employer, the Department of


1 Human Services or law enforcement of this incident. Mr. Cook instead attempted to
2 intervene directly with the student's possible attempted suicide.
3 5. While employed with the Ontario School District, Mr. Cook allowed his wife access to
4 his school district email.

5 IT IS SO STIPULATED:

6 
7 _____
8 Stephen Cook

June 27, 2012

Date

8 
9 _____
10 Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director
11 Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

7-13-12

Date

11 **CONCLUSION OF LAW**

- 12 1. By engaging in the conduct in paragraph 2 above, Mr. Cook engaged in gross neglect of
13 duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates
14 OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(o) as it
15 incorporates OAR 584-020-0035(2)(e) (*Not use the district's or school's name,*
16 *property, or resources for non-educational benefit or purposes without approval of*
17 *the educator's supervisor or the appointing authority*).
- 18 2. By engaging in the conduct in paragraph 3 above, Mr. Cook engaged in gross neglect of
19 duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(o) as it incorporates
20 OAR 584-020-0035(1)(b) (*Refrain from exploiting relationships with any student*
21 *for personal gain, or in support of persons or issues*), and OAR 584-020-
22 0035(1)(c)(A) and (D) (*Not demonstrating or expressing professionally*
23 *inappropriate interest in a student's personal life*), (*Honoring appropriate adult*
24 *boundaries with students in conduct and conversations at all times*); OAR 584-020-
25 0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*).

1 3. By engaging in the conduct in paragraph 4 above, Mr. Cook engaged in gross neglect of
2 duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b)OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates
3 OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*) and OAR 584-020-0030(d)
4 (*Skill in reconciling conflict*); and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(o) as it incorporates OAR
5 584-020-0035(1)(b) (*Refrain from exploiting professional relationships with any*
6 *student for personal gain, or in support of persons or issues*).

7 4. By engaging in the conduct in paragraph 5 above, Mr. Cook engaged in gross neglect of
8 duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates
9 OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional judgment*), OAR 584-020-0025(2)(c)
10 (*Using and maintaining student records as required by federal and state law and*
11 *district policies and procedures*); and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(o) as it incorporates
12 OAR 594-020-0035(1)(a) (*Keep the confidence entrusted in the profession as it*
13 *relates to confidential information concerning a student and the student's family*).

14 **ORDER**

15 The Commission adopts the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and revokes
16 Stephen Cook's License.

17 IT IS SO ORDERED this 20th day of July, 2012.

18 TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

19
20 By: Victoria Chamberlain
21 Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director