

1 a. During the 2012-2013 school year, Morden was observed employing unapproved
2 physical restraints on multiple occasions. This included Morden using an arm bar
3 style hold behind a student's back, locking a student's forearm under their own
4 chin while pinning the student's thigh to the ground with Morden's knee, and
5 covering the face of a student by tying a towel over their face because they were
6 involuntarily spitting. Witnesses advised that Morden was visibly upset and
7 observed Morden cussing in frustration. Administration identified Morden's
8 restraint techniques as unapproved and improper. School officials reported
9 Morden's conduct to law enforcement as possible child abuse. The law
10 enforcement investigation determined Morden's actions may have violated policy
11 but did not rise to a level considered criminal. Astoria School District terminated
12 Morden's employment on April 23, 2013.

13 CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

14 Stephen Paul Morden engaged in unprofessional conduct as described above. This
15 conduct constitutes Gross Neglect of Duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-
16 0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(1) (*Recognize the worth and dignity of*
17 *all persons and respect for each individual*), OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use professional*
18 *judgment*), OAR 584-020-0025(2)(e) (*Using district lawful and reasonable rules and*
19 *regulations*); and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(d) (*Unreasonable physical force against*
20 *students, fellow employees, or visitors to the school, except as permitted under ORS*
21 *339.250*).

22
23 The Commission's authority to impose discipline in this matter is based upon ORS
24 342.175.

25 FINAL ORDER

26 The Commission hereby issues a Public Reprimand upon Stephen Paul Morden's
27 Educator licensure.

28 IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 21st day of October, 2015.

1 TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION



2 By: _____
3 Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director

4 NOTICE OF APPEAL OR RIGHTS

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6
7 YOU ARE ENTITLED TO JUDICIAL REVIEW OF THIS ORDER. JUDICIAL REVIEW
8 MAY BE OBTAINED BY FILING A PETITION FOR REVIEW WITHIN 60 DAYS FROM
9 THE SERVICE OF THIS ORDER. JUDICIAL REVIEW IS PURSUANT TO THE
10 PROVISIONS OF ORS 183.482 TO THE OREGON COURT OF APPEALS.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that I served the foregoing notice of final order, certified by me as such, by mailing U.S. First Class Mail and U.S. Certified Mail—Return Receipt Requested, addressed to:

Stephen Paul Morden
955 Bridge View Ct
Astoria, OR 97103-5911

Dated this 21st day of October, 2015.

By: Patty Liddell
Patty Liddell
Investigative Assistant