

1 NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING  
2 BEFORE THE TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION  
3 OF THE STATE OF OREGON

4 In the Matter of the  
5 Teaching License of  
6 ROBERT WATSON SHURTZ

7 STIPULATION AND ORDER OF  
8 SUSPENSION

9 BENNETT, HARTMAN & REYNOLDS

10 MAY 08 2000

11 PORTLAND, OREGON

12 On December 22, 1999, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission)  
13 issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Robert Watson Shurtz (Shurtz) in which the  
14 Commission proposed to suspend or revoke Shurtz' teaching license or otherwise impose  
15 discipline under ORS 342.177 based on an allegation that Shurtz used school equipment to  
16 access sexually explicit materials. Shurtz requested a hearing through his attorney, Nelson Hall,  
17 to contest the allegations in the notice. After a review of the matters alleged, Shurtz and the  
18 Commission have agreed that their respective interests, together with the public interest, are best  
19 served by a stipulation to certain facts and the imposition of a 90-day suspension, followed by a  
20 period of probation. This Order sets forth the facts upon which the parties have agreed and the  
21 sanction to be imposed. In entering into this stipulation, Shurtz waives his right to a hearing to  
22 contest the findings of fact, conclusion of law and order set forth below.

23 **STIPULATED FACTS**

24 1. Shurtz holds a standard Oregon Teaching License. He was employed by the  
25 Eugene School District 4J from approximately 1996 until the end of the 1998-99 school year  
26 when he resigned his position with the district.

1. During the 1998-99 school year, Shurtz on multiple occasions used computer  
equipment owned by the district and located at the Cal Young Middle School to access sexually  
explicit materials through the internet. The computer was located in Shurtz' classroom.

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1 **ULTIMATE FINDING OF FACT**

2 Shurtz used computer equipment owned by his employing school district and located on  
3 school premises to access sexually explicit materials without authorization from the district.

4 **CONCLUSION OF LAW**

5 Shurtz' activities constituted gross neglect of duty in violation of OAR 584-020-  
6 0040(4)(a).

7 IT IS SO STIPULATED:

8   
9 \_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Watson Shurtz

5/1/00  
\_\_\_\_\_ Date

10   
11 \_\_\_\_\_  
David V. Myton, Executive Director

5/17/00  
\_\_\_\_\_ Date

12  
13 **ORDER**

14 The Oregon Teaching License of Robert Watson Shurtz is suspended for a period of  
15 90 days from the date of this Order. At the end of the suspension period, Shurtz' teaching  
16 license will be reinstated upon application and a showing by Shurtz that he has undergone an  
17 evaluation at his own expense by a medical professional acceptable to the Commission, and the  
18 evaluator submits a written report to the Commission attesting (1) Shurtz is fit to work with  
19 children and teenagers and (2) there is a high probability he will not use school district  
20 equipment to access sexually explicit materials or engage in similar inappropriate behavior.  
21 Following the reinstatement of his teaching license, Shurtz shall be placed on probation to the  
22 Commission for a period of two years subject to the following conditions:

23 1. Shurtz shall undergo treatment or counseling as recommended by the medical  
24 professional who completed the evaluation described above.

25 2. Shurtz shall comply with all Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance  
26 under OAR 584, Division 020.

