

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

In the Matter of the)	STIPULATION OF FACTS,
Teaching License of)	ORDER OF REPRIMAND
KAREN DEE RABINOWICH)	AND PROBATION
)	

On or about June 7, 2000, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) received a report from Dan Weeks, Superintendent, Adrian Public Schools, indicating that Karen Rabinowich failed to maintain an appropriate professional student-teacher relationship by demonstrating or expressing professionally inappropriate interest in a student's personal life. On April 2, 2001, the same student's mother alleged that Ms. Rabinowich violated the District's Letter of Direction issued May 15, 2000, in this matter. The District's investigation did not find sufficient evidence to support the allegation. On May 30, 2001, Ms. Rabinowich resigned her teaching position with the Adrian School District.

Ms. Rabinowich fully cooperated with the Commission's investigation. After review of the matters alleged, Ms. Rabinowich and the Commission agree that their respective interests, together with the public interest, are best served by a stipulation to certain facts, a public reprimand and a two (2) year period of probation. Ms. Rabinowich understands that the probation will be subject to specific conditions. This Order sets forth the facts upon which the parties have agreed and the sanction to be imposed. In entering into this stipulation, Ms. Rabinowich waives the right to a hearing to contest the finding of fact, conclusion of law and order set forth below.

This stipulation is contingent upon approval and adoption of the Order by the Commission. If the Commission does not adopt this Order, neither Ms. Rabinowich nor the Commission are bound by these Stipulations and Ms. Rabinowich retains all rights to a hearing on the allegations.

STIPULATION OF FACTS

1. Ms. Rabinowich holds an Oregon Basic Teaching License with a Standard Language Arts Endorsement effective February 22, 2001, to December 12, 2003.

There are no prior complaints on file with the Commission.

2. Ms. Rabinowich was employed by Adrian Public Schools as a Language Arts Teacher at Adrian Middle School from September 1998 until her resignation effective May 30, 2001. Ms. Rabinowich had no prior experience as a licensed educator in Oregon.

2. During the 1999-2000 school year MH, a male student, was attending Adrian Middle School enrolled in Ms. Rabinowich's class.

3. During the 1999-2000 school year Ms. Rabinowich engaged in writing overly personal letters to male student MH. His mother found one of these letters in his pocket while doing laundry and reported it to the District.

4. MH was removed from Adrian Public Schools by his parents and home schooled for the balance of the 1999-2000 academic year.

5. On May 15, 2000, the District issued a Letter of Direction to Ms. Rabinowich for improper conduct in writing overly personal notes/letters to a student and failure to keep her door open when alone with students.

6. Ms. Rabinowich admits that she failed to maintain an appropriate professional student-teacher relationship with MH.

7. Ms. Rabinowich accepts responsibility for her behavior. She is aware of and remorseful for her failure to set appropriate professional student-teacher boundaries and acknowledges her behavior was inappropriate.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

Ms. Rabinowich's behavior constitutes serious and material inattention to and breach of professional responsibilities in failing to maintain an appropriate professional student-teacher relationship in violation of OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(A).

IT IS SO STIPULATED:

Karen Dee Rabinowich
Karen Dee Rabinowich

8/30/01
Date

David V. Myton
David V. Myton, Executive Director
Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

8/6/01
Date

ORDER

Based upon the foregoing the Commission imposes a Public Reprimand on Karen Rabinowich. This Stipulation of Facts, Order of Reprimand and Probation constitute the reprimand. Furthermore, the Commission imposes a (2) year probation upon Ms. Rabinowich subject to the following conditions:

1. Ms. Rabinowich shall, at her own expense, seek the assistance of a qualified counselor approved in advance by the commission, regarding appropriate professional boundaries. Such counseling shall include at least eight (8) one-hour sessions.

Ms. Rabinowich will provide the counselor with a copy of this Order and the District's report to the Commission. The counselor will provide the Commission with a report of successful program completion.

2. Ms. Rabinowich shall comply with all Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance under Chapter OAR 584, Division 020.


3. Ms. Rabinowich shall provide information as requested by the Commission to verify that he has complied with the conditions of probation, including a statement from a future employing district that he has complied with the Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance under Chapter OAR 584, Division 020.

Violation of the terms of this probation may constitute an independent basis for the Commission to impose discipline, up to and including revocation of Ms.

Rabinowich's teaching license, subject to Ms. Rabinowich's right to a hearing on the issue of whether she violated probation.

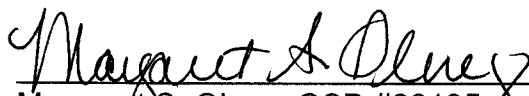
Dated this 14th day of September 2001

TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

By: 

David V. Myton, Executive Director

Approved as to form:


Margaret S. Olney, OSB #88135
Attorney for Karen Dee Rabinowich