

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

3   In the Matter of the   )       STIPULATION OF FACTS,  
4   Teaching License of   )       ORDER OF SUSPENSION  
5   ROBERT WILLIAM BATEASE                                     )       AND PROBATION

6           On or about April 22, 2005, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission  
7   (Commission) received a report from Newell G. Cleaver, Superintendent, John Day School  
8   District indicating on March 17, 2005, the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office executed a warrant  
9   seizing a District computer used by Robert William Batease (Batease).

10           Robert Batease fully cooperated with the Commission's investigation. After review of the  
11   matters alleged, Mr. Batease and the Commission agree that their respective interests, together  
12   with the public interest, are best served by a stipulation to certain facts and the imposition of a  
13   ninety (90) day suspension of licensure followed by a four (4) year period of probation upon  
14   reinstatement of licensure.

15           This Order sets forth the facts upon which the parties have agreed and the sanction to  
16   be imposed. Mr. Batease stipulates that there are sufficient facts contained in the  
17   Commission's files and records to support the findings of fact and conclusions of law set forth  
18   below. In entering into this stipulation, Mr. Batease waives the right to a hearing to contest the  
19   findings of fact, conclusions of law and order set forth below. Mr. Batease understands that the  
20   probation will be subject to specific conditions.

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

25   **STIPULATION OF FACTS**

26           1. Mr. Batease has been licensed by the Commission since May 3, 1995.

1 Mr. Batease holds a Standard Teaching License with a Standard Social Studies Endorsement  
2 issued September 28, 2004, valid through December 21, 2009.

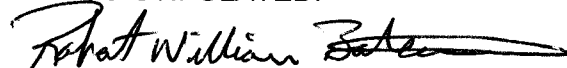
3 2. Mr. Batease taught social studies for the Ukiah School District from September 1995  
4 through June of 2004. There were no complaints against Mr. Batease during his employment  
5 with Ukiah School District and his teaching evaluations were positive.

6 3. In June of 2004, Mr. Batease accepted a teaching position for the John Day School  
7 District. There were no complaints filed against Mr. Batease during his employment with John  
8 Day School District and his teaching evaluations were positive. Mr. Batease resigned in lieu of  
9 termination for violation of the District's technology policies on April 13, 2005.


10 4. On March 16, 2005, the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office investigated Mr. Batease for  
11 alleged criminal conduct involving a female student who attended Ukiah High School during the  
12 2003-2004 school year. On July 28, 2005, the Umatilla County District Attorney declined  
13 prosecution; Mr. Batease was not charged with commission of a crime.

14 5. The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office investigation report revealed that in June of  
15 2004, Mr. Batease sent a female student who recently graduated from Ukiah High School an  
16 overly personal letter that had romantic overtones. The investigation also revealed that Mr.  
17 Batease sent overly personal email to the same former student using a John Day School District  
18 computer and allowed the former student to send him email containing vulgar and sexually  
19 explicit language. Mr. Batease did not discourage the former student's use of vulgar and  
20 sexually explicit language.

21 IT IS SO STIPULATED:

22   
23 Robert William Batease

5/10/06  
Date

24   
25 Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director  
26 Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

5-4-06  
Date

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## CONCLUSION OF LAW

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3 Robert William Batease failed to maintain an appropriate professional student-teacher  
4 relationship with a female student during the 2003-2004 school year by demonstrating and  
5 expressing a professionally inappropriate interest in a student's personal life in violation of OAR  
6 584-020-0040(4)(o) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c). Mr. Batease used the  
7 computer and internet connection owned by his employer, John Day School District to send and  
8 receive inappropriate personal email messages in violation of OAR 584-020-0040(4)(b).  
9 Mr. Batease was fully aware that his use of District owned computer equipment and  
10 employment time for personal purposes was inappropriate and in violation of District policy.  
11 Mr. Batease's behavior in these matters constitutes Gross Neglect of Duty. The Commission's  
12 authority to impose discipline in this matter is based upon ORS 342.175.

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## ORDER

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14 Robert William Batease's Standard Teaching License is suspended for a period of ninety  
15 (90) days effective on May 11, 2006. At the end of this suspension period, Mr. Batease's  
16 Standard Teaching License will be reinstated upon:

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1. Submission of a complete application and fees pursuant to OAR 584-050-0015(3);

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and

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2. Submission of documentation that he has undergone an evaluation by a

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psychotherapist or medical professional acceptable to the Commission, and the evaluator

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submits a written report to the Commission attesting (a) Mr. Batease is fit to work with children

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and teenagers, and (b) there is a high probability he will maintain appropriate student-teacher

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relationships in the future. Any costs associated with the assessment or treatment will be the

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responsibility of Mr. Batease.

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Upon the reinstatement of licensure, Mr. Batease shall be placed on probation by the

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Commission for a period of four (4) years, subject to the following conditions:

1 1. Mr. Batease shall substantially comply with any treatment or counseling as  
2 recommended by the individual who completed the evaluation described above.

3 Mr. Batease shall authorize and sign any consent forms as necessary for the treatment provider  
4 or counselor to furnish records to or discuss Mr. Batease's treatment with the Commission.

5 2. Mr. Batease shall comply with all Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance  
6 of Oregon Educators under Oregon Administrative Rules, Chapter 584, Division 020.

7 3. Mr. Batease shall provide information as requested by the Commission to verify that  
8 he has complied with the conditions of probation, including a statement from a future employing  
9 district that he has complied with the Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance of  
10 Oregon Educators.

11 Violation of the terms of this probation may constitute an independent basis for the  
12 Commission to impose discipline, up to and including revocation of Mr. Batease's teaching  
13 license subject to Mr. Batease's right to a hearing on the issue of whether he violated probation.

14 IT IS SO ORDERED this 15 day of May, 2006.

15 TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

16  
17 By: Victoria Chamberlain  
18 Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director

19 Approved as to form:

20 AS  
21  
22 Adam S. Arms, OSB#01018  
23 Attorney for Robert William Batease

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