

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 ) AND  
5 SUZANNE POLITO LYNCH ) ORDER OF REPRIMAND

6 On or about December 23, 2004, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission  
7 (Commission) received a report from Douglas Nelson, Superintendent, Bend-La Pine Public  
8 Schools, indicating that Suzanne Polito Lynch (Lynch) used inappropriate language in the  
9 proximity of students and staff; displayed outbursts of anger around staff and students; and left  
10 the classroom during scheduled instructional time.

11 Ms. Lynch fully cooperated in the Commission's investigation. After review of the  
12 matters alleged, Ms. Lynch and the Executive Director agree that their respective interests,  
13 together with the public interests, are best served by a stipulation to certain facts and a  
14 reprimand.

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

20 The stipulation is contingent upon approval and adoption of the Order by the  
21 Commission. If the Commission does not adopt this Order, neither Ms. Lynch nor the  
22 Commission are bound by these stipulations and Ms. Lynch retains all rights to a hearing on the  
23 allegations.

24 **STIPULATION OF FACTS**

25 1. Ms. Lynch currently holds a Transitional Teaching License with a Special Education  
26 endorsement valid August 11, 2003, through August 11, 2006.

1           2. Ms. Lynch was employed as a Special Education Resource teacher for Gilchrist  
2 Elementary School, Klamath County School District during the 2003-2004 school year.

3 Ms. Lynch successfully completed her contract and resigned to accept a position with the Bend-  
4 La Pine School District.

5           3. Ms. Lynch began employment as a Special Education teacher for La Pine High  
6 School, Bend-La Pine Public Schools on August 30, 2004. Ms. Lynch took leave from her  
7 teaching position on September 15, 2004, travel to Florida due her father's failing health. The  
8 leave was extended through October 3, 2004, due to her father's death. On November 4, 2004,  
9 the District placed Ms. Lynch on paid administrative leave pending the outcome of the District's  
10 investigation. Ms. Lynch resigned effective December 17, 2004.

11           4. On several occasions, Ms. Lynch left her classroom for brief periods at the end of a  
12 class or the end of the day while students were present in order to smoke a cigarette. At all  
13 times, the students were under the observation/supervision of either an aid or a teacher in an  
14 adjoining classroom.

15           5. On several occasions, Ms. Lynch used inappropriate language in front of staff which,  
16 though not directed at students or intended to be heard by them, may have been over heard by  
17 students. Ms. Lynch also expressed feelings of anger and frustration related to certain  
18 conditions in the school. Ms. Lynch acknowledges that, as a result of her father's death in the  
19 beginning of the school year and other stressors, she demonstrated less control over her  
20 emotional faculties than a competent educator should exercise.

21 IT IS SO STIPULATED:

22 Suzanne Polito Lynch  
23 Suzanne Polito Lynch

1-13-06  
Date

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

1-17-06  
Date

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**CONCLUSION OF LAW**

Suzanne Polito Lynch violated OAR 584-020-0010(5) when she failed to demonstrate a commitment to use professional judgment in leaving the classroom during student contact hours. Ms. Lynch violated OAR 584-020-0010(5) when she failed to demonstrate a commitment to use professional judgment in communicating with staff in the presence of students. This misconduct constitutes Gross Neglect of Duty. The Commission's authority to impose discipline in this matter is based upon ORS 342.175.

**ORDER**

The Commission imposes a Public Reprimand on Suzanne Polito Lynch. This Stipulation of Facts and Order constitute the Reprimand

IT IS SO ORDERED this 30 day of January, 2006.

TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

By *Victoria Chamberlain*  
Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director

Approved as to form:

*Elizabeth McKanna*  
Elizabeth McKanna OSB# 89306  
Attorney for Suzanne Polito Lynch

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