

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

3 In the Matter of the) STIPULATION OF FACTS AND
4 Educator License of) FINAL ORDER OF SUSPENSION
5 EVAN TAYLOR CHANDLER) AND PROBATION

6 On May 23, 2017, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) received a
7 report from the Oregon Trail School District alleging that Evan T. Chandler (Chandler) had violated
8 Professional Standards and Practices.

9 After review of the matters alleged, Chandler and the Commission agree that their respective
10 interests, together with the public interest, are best served by a stipulation to certain facts, the
11 imposition of a one (1) year suspension of Chandler’s Oregon educator license, and a four (4) year
12 period of probation to commence upon reinstatement of Chandler’s Oregon educator license.

13 This document sets forth the facts upon which the parties have agreed and the stipulated
14 sanction to be imposed. Chandler stipulates that there is sufficient evidence in the Commission’s files
15 and records to support the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order set forth below.

16 By signing below, Chandler acknowledges, understands, stipulates, and agrees to the
17 following: (i) he has been fully advised of his rights to notice and a hearing to contest the findings of
18 fact, conclusions of law, and order set forth below, and fully and finally waives all such rights and any
19 rights to appeal or otherwise challenge this Stipulation of Facts and Final Order of Suspension and
20 Probation (Stipulation and Final Order); (ii) this Stipulation and Final Order is a public document and
21 disclosed to the public upon request by the Commission; (iii) this Stipulation and Final Order is
22 contingent upon and subject to approval and adoption by the Commission. If the Commission does
23 not approve and adopt this Stipulation and Final Order, then neither Chandler nor the Commission
24 are bound by the terms herein; (iv) he has fully read this Stipulation and Final Order, and understands
25 it completely; (v) he voluntarily, without any force or duress, enters into this Stipulation and Final
26 Order and consents to issuance and entry of the Stipulated Final Order below; (vi) he states that no
27 promises or representation has been made to induce him to sign this Stipulation and Final Order; and
28 (vii) he has consulted with an attorney regarding this Stipulation and Final Order and has been fully

1 advised with regard to his rights thereto, or waives any and all rights to consult with an attorney prior
2 to entering into this Stipulation and Final Order and issuance and entry of the Stipulated Final Order
3 below.

4 **STIPULATION OF FACTS**

- 5 1) Chandler has been licensed as an Educator in Oregon since March 17, 2005. Chandler holds a
6 Preliminary Teaching License, with endorsements in Elementary-Multiple Subjects (PK-12);
7 Foundational English Language Arts (PK-12); and Foundational Mathematics (PK-12), valid from
8 August 30, 2016, through February 23, 2020. During all relevant times, Chandler was employed
9 by the Oregon Trail School District.
- 10 2) On May 23, 2017, the Commission received a report from the Oregon Trail School District advising
11 that Chandler had been investigated for conduct that may be considered gross neglect of duty or
12 gross unfitness. The report alleges Chandler engaged in conduct that invaded teacher / student
13 boundaries in violation of school district policy.
- 14 3) On or about May 16, 2017, Chandler provided / posted information regarding a writing assignment
15 in which the goal was to write honestly about the deepest thing(s) in the student's life. Chandler
16 indicated in this writing assignment that students did not need to fear submission of their deepest,
17 honest topics because they would not be required to share their writing. The district interpreted
18 this to signify that Chandler would not be reporting student safety issues or required mandatory
19 reporting if students disclosed such information. In fact, multiple students did write about suicidal
20 thoughts, cutting, and hating themselves.
- 21 As part of this assignment, Chandler also included (posted on Chandler's BlogSpot) an example
22 letter titled, "Love and Connectedness". In Chandler's example letter, Chandler wrote about his
23 relationship with the student class as follows: *"You're new here, cute and little and innocent", "I
24 go out of my way to let you see me. I want you to know me. Not "teacher me," but the real me.",
25 "I knew I loved you and that we had a great year together in 6th grade, but this has been
26 unbelievable.", "We connected and connected and connected.", "I just want to soak in the feeling
27 of being together and seeing you in your deep, shiny eyes.", and "You are tattooed upon my soul."*

1 Chandler also read this same letter to the students during class time. School administrators
2 received multiple complaints from parents about the writing sample. School administrators
3 determined the writing to be inappropriate and outside professional teacher / student boundaries.

4 4) School administrators also received reports from staff members indicating that on or about
5 February 24, 2017, Chandler had inappropriate contact with a student during an overnight church
6 event held at the middle school campus. Chandler was the youth group leader and a chaperone at
7 the overnight event. At this event, Chandler was observed hugging a male, middle school student
8 named DD. In addition to the hugging, chaperones reported seeing DD holding onto Chandler's
9 legs on one occasion. Chaperones further reported another occasion in which DD sat on the floor
10 with his body resting against Chandler while Chandler read him a book.


11 It was further learned that Chandler had been tutoring DD in math and was often alone with DD in
12 his classroom, both before and after school. Chandler also met with DD on the weekends at coffee
13 shops or fast food places to work on homework. Investigators learned that on multiple occasions,
14 and in violation of school district policy, Chandler gave DD rides home from school. At one point,
15 after having been directed by Principal Bucchi not to give DD or any students' rides in his vehicle,
16 Chandler again provided DD a ride home from track practice after school. Chandler informed
17 investigators that he had a personal relationship with DD and his parents, and he had permission
18 to meet with DD and to give DD rides home in Chandler's vehicle. Chandler admitted to
19 investigators that providing a ride to DD after being directed not to, was a "bad decision".

20 5) School district records indicate the administration received additional reports that Chandler
21 engaged in boundary violations, including the allegation that Chandler posted photographs of
22 students on his Facebook account and had some students as "friends" on Facebook. At least one of
23 the photographs was taken in the classroom and was posted without student or parent permission.
24 Many of these photographs were taken during Chandler's regular spring break trips with select
25 students and their parents, though the trips were not sponsored by the Oregon Trail School
26 District. After learning of the issue, Chandler removed the photographs, removed students from his
27 friend list and set his privacy settings to block public inspection.

1 6) On May 18, 2017, Chandler was placed on administrative leave. On the same day Chandler
2 submitted his resignation effective at the end of the 2016-2017 school year.

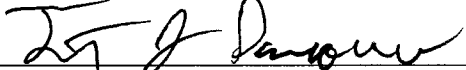
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4 IT IS SO STIPULATED:

5 
6 _____
Evan T. Chandler

9/12/2018

Date

7 
8 _____
Trent Danowski, Deputy Director
9 Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

9/28/2018

Date

10

11

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

12 Evan Taylor Chandler's conduct described above constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation
13 of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use*
14 *professional judgment*), OAR 584-020-0015(2)(c) (*Use of current subject matter appropriate to the*
15 *individual needs of students*), OAR 584-020-0020(2)(c) (*Procedures for evaluating curriculum and*
16 *instructional goals and practices*), OAR 584-020-0025(2)(e) (*Using district lawful and reasonable*
17 *rules and regulations*), OAR 584-020-0030(2)(b) (*Skill in communicating with administrators,*
18 *students, staff, parents, and other patrons*); and OAR 584-020-0040(4)(o) as it incorporates, OAR
19 584-020-0035(1)(c)(A) (*Maintain an appropriate professional student-teacher relationship by: Not*
20 *demonstrating or expressing professionally inappropriate interest in a student's personal life*), and
21 OAR 584-020-0035(1)(c)(D) (*Honoring appropriate adult boundaries with students in conduct and*
22 *conversations at all times*).

23

24

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

26

ORDER

27 The Commission hereby adopts and incorporates herein the above stipulation of facts,
28 conclusions of law, and based thereon hereby imposes a one (1) year suspension upon Chandler's
29 Oregon educator license as follows:

1 Evan T. Chandler's Oregon educator license is hereby suspended for one (1) year following the
2 adoption of this order.

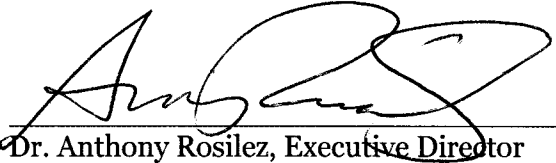
3 Furthermore, the Commission imposes a four (4) year period of probation upon Chandler to
4 commence upon reinstatement of his Oregon educator license and subject to the following terms and
5 conditions of probation:

- 6 1. Chandler shall comply with the Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance of
7 Oregon Educators under Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter 584, Division 020.
- 8 2. Chandler will successfully complete a Commission approved boundaries training prior
9 to reinstatement of his license.
- 10 3. Chandler will continue to participate in related counseling for a period of 24 months, or
11 as recommended by his treatment provider. Participation will be documented by
12 quarterly reports from his provider.

13 Violation of any term or condition of probation shall constitute an independent basis for the
14 Commission to revoke Chandler's Oregon educator license or otherwise impose discipline, after first
15 providing Chandler with notice and opportunity for hearing

16
17 IT IS SO ORDERED this 2 day of November, 2018.

18 TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

19
20 By: 
21 Dr. Anthony Rosilez, Executive Director