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

In the Matter of the	)	
Teaching License of	j	DEFAULT ORDER
FRANK JAMES CRAWFORD	)	SUSPENDING LICENSE
	)	

On or about February 11, 1997, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission received a complaint from Jer Pratton, Superintendent of Hermiston School District, indicating that Frank James Crawford had violated his contract by failing to provide 60 days' notice prior to resignation. Under OAR 584-50-020, the Commission informs the educator of intent to suspend the license on the basis of such complaints. A notice to Frank Crawford dated February 27, 1997, informed Mr. Crawford of her opportunity for hearing on the matter. The notice of opportunity for hearing was sent by U.S. Certified Mail--Return Receipt Requested.

### FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. On or about July 12, 1996, Frank James Crawford signed an employment contract with the Hermiston School District for the 1996-97 school year.
- 2. On Friday, December 20, 1996, Crawford cleaned out his desk and left school before scheduled dismissal for the Christmas holiday vacation period.
- 3. Mr. Crawford did not return to school as scheduled on January 6, 1997. On January 13, 1997, the District received a letter dated January 7, 1997, listing Mr. Crawford's reasons for resigning. This followed a telephone conversation with the Hermiston School District's Human Resources Manager in which Crawford acknowledged he was quitting and would accept the consequences of breaking a contract.
- 4. Meeting in regular session on February 3, 1997, the Hermiston School District Board of Directors took action to seek a one year suspension of Crawford's teaching license and accept his resignation.
- 5. Hermiston School District informed TSPC of this action in a letter dated February 4, 1997, requesting the suspension of Crawford's teaching license.

## ULTIMATE FINDINGS OF FACT

Frank James Crawford signed an employment contract with the Hermiston School District on July 12, 1996, for the 1996-97 school year. He submitted a letter of resignation dated January 7, 1997, effective December 20, 1996.

## CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

ORS 342.553 requires the suspension of a license for the balance of the school year for failure to provide 60 days' notice prior to resignation. If the charge of the contract violation is proven, and justification for the contract violation is not satisfactory, the Commission is required to suspend the license for the remainder of the school year. The Commissio's decision is final.

#### **ORDER**

The Teacher Standards and Practices Commission suspends the Oregon Teaching License #297494 issued to Frank James Crawford, for violation of contract by resignation without providing 60 days' written notice.

Dated this O4th day of Mark, 1997.

TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

By: V W David V. Myton, Executive Secretary

ACTION OF THE COMMISSION TO SUSPEND LICENSES FOR CONTRACT VIOLATIONS UNDER ORS 342.553 ARE FINAL AND MAY NOT BE APPEALED.

DVM/cs

### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that I served the foregoing order by mailing a true copy thereof certified by me as such by regular U.S. mail and by U.S. Certified Mail with Return Receipt Requested to:

Dated this

day of

1997

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harlene A. Smith

Secretary to the Commission

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## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that I served the foregoing order by mailing a true copy thereof certified by me as such by regular to U.S. Certified Mail with Return Receipt Requested to:

Dated this 25 day of March, 1997.

Charlene A. Smith

Secretary to the Commission