

1 STATE OF OREGON

2 TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

3	In the Matter of the)	
	Teaching License of:)	STIPULATION OF FACTS
4	DEAN PATRICK STILES)	AND ORDER OF SUSPENSION
)	

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6 On or about September 25, 1997, the Teacher Standards and

7 Practices Commission (Commission) issued a Notice of Opportunity

8 for hearing to Dean Patrick Stiles (Stiles) in which the

9 Commission proposed to suspend or revoke his Oregon teaching

10 license or to impose other discipline under ORS 342.177.

11 The Commission and Stiles have now reviewed the matters

12 alleged and have now reviewed the matters alleged and have agreed

13 to the following stipulation. In entering this stipulation,

14 Stiles waives his right to a hearing. This agreement sets forth

15 facts Stiles will not contest including the Commission's order of

16 a one-year suspension of Stiles' teaching license and for 2 (two)

17 years of probation.

18 FINDINGS OF FACT

19 The parties stipulate that evidence in the record exists to

20 support the following Findings of Fact by the Commission:

- 21 1. Stiles was employed as a teacher with the Tigard-Tualatin
- 22 School District from approximately 1988 until 1997 when he
- 23 resigned his position.
- 24 2. Stiles was originally employed as a junior high language
- 25 arts and journalism instructor. In 1992, when the District
- 26 opened Tualatin High, Stiles transferred there. In addition

1 to classroom teaching, Stiles served as a yearbook and
2 journalism advisor and as an athletic coach.

3 3. During the performance of duties as both coach and
4 publications advisor, Stiles spent many hours with high
5 school students outside the normal student contact day.
6 Stiles was required to supervise students away from school
7 during the evenings arising from coaching at tournaments ad
8 similar events.

9 4. As a result of spending long hours with students outside the
10 formal classroom setting, Stiles developed close
11 relationships with his students. Stiles was a successful
12 coach, teacher and advisor. He was also popular with
13 students. Some students looked upon Stiles as a friend and
14 counselor in addition to a teacher. Many students felt
15 comfortable having discussions of personal subjects in front
16 of Stiles, including discussions of the students' romantic
17 relationships and activities. Stiles would upon occasion
18 become involved in these discussions.

19 5. In part because of the closeness and informality which
20 developed with his athletes and yearbook/journalism
21 students, Stiles engaged in conduct which was inappropriate
22 for a teacher. On more than one occasion, Stiles
23 participated in discussions with students in which Stiles
24 joined in with students and used profane and explicit sexual
25 language. Several female students reported to the District
26 that they were offended that Stiles made verbal comments

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1 which included sexual slang and vulgarity. Some of the
2 terms used were directed to female students in a teasing
3 manner, but which offended some of the girls in Stiles'
4 charge.

5 6. After a student complaint was filed with the District about
6 Stiles, the District conducted an investigation. In the
7 investigation, two or more female students complained about
8 Stiles' language and also stated that Stiles had touched
9 them or others inappropriately.

10 7. Stiles denied any sexual touching, which also was
11 investigated by the police and which did not result in any
12 criminal prosecution. After its investigation, the District
13 concluded that Stiles had not engaged in any sexual touching
14 of students, but that he had used inappropriate language.

15 8. Stiles' evaluation files showed that he was considered an
16 able and effective educator.

17 9. Stiles was teaching at Tualatin High School on a restricted
18 license at the request of the District by misassignment
19 report dated October 11, 1995. The restricted license
20 expired on August 28, 1996. Stiles did not complete the
21 requirements for teaching K - 12. Therefore, the District
22 proposed to transfer Stiles to the middle school. Before
23 the commencement of the 1996-97 school year, Stiles
24 resigned.

25 10. Stiles applied to TSPC to renew his Basic teaching license
26 on August 12, 1996. The Executive Secretary denied

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1 reinstatement of Stiles' basic license pending the outcome
2 and proceedings in this case.

3 11. Stiles is not currently employed as a teacher.

4 ULTIMATE CONCLUSION OF LAW

5 Stiles violated OAR 584-20-040(4)(f) by using language which
6 created an inappropriate environment for students.

7 ORDER

8 The Commission adopts the above findings of fact and
9 suspends the teaching license of Dean Patrick Stiles for one year
10 commencing September 1, 1996 and ending September 1, 1997.

11 The Commission hereby renews Stiles' basic teaching license
12 effective the date of this order. However, commencing with the
13 date of this order, Stiles is placed on probation for a period of
14 two years pursuant to ORS 342.177(3)(b). The terms of probation
15 are as follows:

16 1. Stiles shall comply with the standards for ethical and
17 competent performance of Oregon Educators under OAR
18 584, Division 20.

19 2. Stiles shall make available to the Executive Director
20 all performance evaluations in any public schools for
21 child and youth preprimary through grade 12 in Oregon
22 within 30 days of receiving such evaluations.

23 3. Stiles shall report to the Executive Director within 30
24 days of receipt of any letters of discipline received
25 by any public school employer.

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1 4. Violation of the terms of probation shall constitute an
2 independent basis for the Commission to impose other
3 disciplinary sanctions upon Stiles after first giving
4 notice and an opportunity for hearing.

5 DISCUSSION

6 Under TSPC regulations, teachers are required to exercise
7 judgment while in the performance of duty, including duties which
8 extend beyond the student contact day.

9 In this case, the Commission finds that the teacher engaged
10 in conduct with students under his charge which showed a serious
11 lack of judgment. The evidence is not persuasive that Stiles
12 touched students physically in a sexual manner. However, the
13 facts do show that the teacher used repeated profane and sexual
14 language with students. Although the circumstances were such
15 that the teacher generally did not instigate or incite these
16 discussions, the teacher joined in rather than stopped the
17 discussions. At times, the teacher teased his students using
18 vulgar language. Even though much of the inappropriate language
19 was in jest, or part of coaches' "locker room" talk, there were
20 female students present who were very offended. It was
21 inappropriate for Stiles to engage in the conduct he did. Doing
22 so violated his ethical obligations as an educator under our
23 rules.

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1 It is therefore appropriate for the Commission to impose a
2 one-year suspension and the terms of probation recited herein.

3 IT IS SO STIPULATED

4 Dean P. Stiles
Dean Patrick Stiles

4/2/98
Date

5 David V. Myton
6 David V. Myton
7 Executive Director
8 Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

3/19/98
Date

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