

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

In the Matter of the)
Educator License of)
LEE, SHERI K.)

STIPULATION OF FACTS AND
FINAL ORDER OF SUSPENSION
AND PROBATION

On April 30, 2024, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) received a referral from the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS). The DHS referral alleged possible professional misconduct on the part of licensed educator, Sheri K. Lee (Lee).

After review of the matters alleged, Lee and the Commission agree that their respective interests, together with the public interest, are best served by a stipulation to certain facts and the imposition of a suspension of Lee's Oregon Educator License and a period of probation and/or training.

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

By signing below, Lee acknowledges, understands, stipulates, and agrees to the following: (i) she has been fully advised of her rights to notice and a hearing to contest the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order set forth below, and fully and finally waives all such rights and any rights to appeal or otherwise challenge this Stipulation of Facts and Final Order of Suspension and Probation (Stipulation and Final Order); (ii) this Stipulation and Final Order is a public document and disclosed to the public upon request by the Commission; (iii) this Stipulation and Final Order is contingent upon and subject to approval and adoption by the Commission. If the Commission does not approve and adopt this Stipulation and Final Order, then neither Lee nor the Commission are bound by the terms herein; (iv) she has fully read this Stipulation and Final Order, and understands it completely; (v) she voluntarily, without any force or duress, enters into this Stipulation and Final Order and consents to issuance and entry of the Stipulated Final Order below; (vi) she states that no promise or representation has been made to induce her to sign this Stipulation and Final Order; and (vii) she has

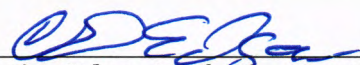
1 consulted with an attorney regarding this Stipulation and Final Order and has been fully
2 advised with regard to her rights thereto or waives any and all rights to consult with an
3 attorney prior to entering into this Stipulation and Final Order and issuance and entry of
4 the Stipulated Final Order below.

5 6 **STIPULATION OF FACTS**

- 7
- 8 1. The Commission has licensed Lee since August 16, 2007. Lee holds a
9 Professional Teaching License with endorsements in Elementary Multiple
10 Subjects (PK-12) and Special Education - Generalist (PK-12), which was
11 issued on March 9, 2022 and expires on March 8, 2027. During all relevant
12 times, Lee was employed by the St. Helens School District (SHSD).
13
 - 14
 - 15 2. On April 30, 2024 TSPC received a referral from the Oregon Department of
16 Human Services (DHS). The DHS referral alleged that Lee, a SPED teacher at
17 McBride Elementary School (MES), dragged an elementary Student A across
18 the classroom approximately 6-7 feet. Also referenced in the DHS referral are
19 allegations that Lee was impatient with SPED students, have communicated
20 with them in a disrespectful manner, grab their arms, and forcefully remove
21 objects from their hands.
22
 - 23
 - 24 3. Investigation by SHSD, DHS and TSPC determined the following:
25
 - 26 • On April 24, 2024 Lee was involved in an incident with student A.
 - 27 • Lee pulled student A approximately 10 feet by his shorts to the quiet room
28 when he became dysregulated in Lee's classroom.
 - 29 • Lee reported that she chose to pull on student A's clothing rather than any
30 of his body parts because Lee didn't want to injury him.
 - 31 • Pulling on student A's shorts caused his stomach and buttocks to be
32 exposed while he was being dragged.
 - 33 • On April 26, 2024, the SHSD placed Lee on administrative leave while this
34 matter was investigated.
 - 35 • During the investigation, Lee admitted to dragging student A by his shorts.
 - 36 • SHSD, as a matter of policy, provides "Safety Care" training to its
37 employees to satisfy the Oregon Department of Education's requirements
38 relating to restraint and seclusion training. Safety Care training requires
39 annual retraining to maintain certification, meaning that SHSD is
40 obligated to provide Safety Care re-training to its employees each year to
41 keep them certified. However, the District had not provided Lee with
42 Safety Care training since September 24, 2021. Accordingly, Lee's
43 certification in Safety Care training expired on September 24, 2022. Before
44 the April 24, 2024 incident, Lee had reached out to the District to inquire

- 1 about Safety Care re-training opportunities as recently as April 10, 2024.
- 2 • The district investigation determined that Lee violated SHSD policy JGAB-
- 3 Use of Restraint or Seclusion.
- 4 • The district also determined that Lee had used her private cell phone to
- 5 communicate with parents regarding student behavior concerns rather
- 6 than utilizing district approved communication methods.
- 7 • The district also found that Lee had not fulfilled the essential duties and
- 8 responsibilities of her position by failing to provide guidance and
- 9 instruction regarding restraint and seclusion protocols to para-
- 10 professionals.
- 11 • Additionally, DHS/OTIS determined that Lee's actions with student A
- 12 were "founded for wrongful restraint." Lee has filed a contestation of that
- 13 determination, which at this time remains pending.
- 14 • As a result of the district and DHS investigations, the SHSD imposed a 3-
- 15 day unpaid suspension, issued Lee a Letter of Reprimand, and mandated
- 16 that she participate in retraining courses for Safety Care, IEP/Behavior
- 17 Plan Design, working relationships, data collection, and parent
- 18 communication. Lee has since completed Safety Care training and her
- 19 Safety Care training is now current.
- 20 • All other allegations against Lee referenced in the April 30, 2024 DHS
- 21 referral were not substantiated.
- 22

23 IT IS SO STIPULATED:

24 
25 Sheri K. Lee
26
27 
28 Cristina Edgar, Profession Practices Director
29 Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

06/18/2025

Date

4/18/25
Date

30

31 **CONCLUSION OF LAW**

32 *The conduct described in sections two (2) and three (3) above constitute gross*

33 *neglect of duty in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it*

34 *incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(5) (Use professional judgment), OAR 584-020-*

35 *0020(2)(d) (Skill in the supervision of students), OAR 584-020-0025(2)(e) (Using*

36 *district lawful and reasonable rules and regulations), and 584-020-*

37 *0040(4)(d)(Unreasonable physical force against students, fellow employees, or visitors*

38 *to the school, except as permitted under ORS 339.250).*

39

40 **ORDER**

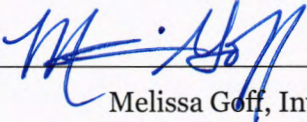
1 The Commission adopts and incorporates herein the above findings of fact and
2 conclusions of law, and based thereon, imposes a thirty (30) day suspension of Lee's Oregon
3 Educator License as well as a two (2) year period of probation. The period of probation will
4 become effective on the date of adoption of this stipulated order. The period of probation is
5 subject to the following conditions:

- 6
- 7 1. Lee will complete a certified Safety Care training within the first year of
8 probation.
 - 9 2. Lee shall comply with the Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance of
10 Oregon Educators under Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter 584, Division
11 020.

12
13 Issued and dated this 26th day of June, 2025.

14 **TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION**
15 **STATE OF OREGON**

16
17 By _____

18 
Melissa Goff, Interim Executive Director