

IDAHO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

In the matter of the certificates of:

Angela Edwards,

Respondent

Case No. 21808

STIPULATION

BACKGROUND

The Professional Standards Commission received an allegation of unethical conduct concerning Angela Edwards (“Ms. Edwards”). Following an investigation, the Executive Committee of the Professional Standards Commission reviewed the information before it and determined that probable cause exists for initiating an administrative action against Ms. Edwards’s certificates. The Executive Committee has recommended the following Stipulation.

STIPULATION

1. This is an agreement (Stipulation) between Ms. Edwards and the Executive Committee (the Executive Committee) of the Professional Standards Commission (the Commission).
2. If Ms. Edwards wishes to agree to this Stipulation, she must sign and return this Stipulation and any attachments to the Commission by 5:00 p.m. (mountain time) on August 30, 2018, unless she has been granted an extension.
3. After Ms. Edwards and the Executive Committee agree to and sign this Stipulation, the Stipulation must be approved by the Commission, and the Commission must enter the attached consent order, before this Stipulation resolves the matter.

4. A signed copy of this Stipulation may be submitted via mail or fax to:

Professional Standards Commission
650 West State Street, 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0027
Fax: (208) 334-2228 (Attn: Professional Standards Commission)

A. STIPULATED FACTS AND LAW

5. The Commission regulates teacher certification in Idaho.
6. Ms. Edwards holds the following certificates and endorsements issued under the authority of the Idaho State Board of Education:
 - a. Pupil Personnel Services certificate with School Social Worker (K-12) endorsement – effective September 1, 2016 – valid until August 31, 2021.
7. Ms. Edwards was a counselor at Grangeville Elementary/Middle School for the Mountain View School District #244 during the 2017-2018 school year.
8. On February 21, 2018, Ms. Edwards attended a basketball game at Troy High School that was being played between the Grangeville High School Boys Basketball team (“Grangeville Team”) and St. Maries High School Boys Basketball team (“St. Maries Team”), making the game a school sponsored event.
9. During the 3rd quarter of the game, Ms. Edwards was sitting in the gym on the side where the Grangeville Team fans were sitting and the fans of the St. Maries Team were sitting on the opposite side.
10. One of the fans for the St. Maries team could be heard to bark when a Grangeville Team member would shoot free throws.
11. At some point in the 3rd quarter, Ms. Edwards decided to speak with the student because she believed the barking to be poor sportsmanship.

12. She walked down the Grangeville side of the gym, then out into the lobby, then down the St. Maries side, and sat behind the St. Maries student in the bleacher stands.

13. After seating herself behind the St. Maries student, Ms. Edwards began to converse with him for a time until the student again barked during a free-throw attempt by a Grangeville player.

14. Ms. Edwards then proceeded to hit the student in the back of his head causing the student to have to readjust his hat.

15. The Executive Committee determined that probable cause exists for initiating an administrative action against Ms. Edwards for violating the following laws and rule governing teacher certification:

- a. Ms. Edwards's conduct or course of conduct willfully violated a code of ethics principle, adopted by the Idaho State Board of Education. Idaho Code § 33-1208(1)(j). Specifically, Ms. Edwards violated Code of Ethics Principle II (Idaho Admin. Code r. 08.02.02.076.03) ("A professional educator maintains a professional relationship with all students, both inside and outside the physical and virtual classroom.").

16. Ms. Edwards, although not admitting that she violated the laws and rule cited in paragraph 21, acknowledges that there is sufficient evidence to support a finding of a violation of the laws and rule cited in paragraph 21.

B. Stipulated Discipline

17. If this Stipulation is approved by the Commission, the following discipline will be imposed by the Commission on Ms. Edwards's certificate:

- a. The Commission will issue a letter of reprimand to be placed in Ms. Edwards's professional certification file; and
- b. Ms. Edwards complete a three credit professional boundaries course approved by the PSC within the next 12 months of the execution of this stipulation, which cannot be used for renewal purposes.

18. Any costs associated with Ms. Edwards's compliance with the terms of this Stipulation are her responsibility.

19. During the pendency of this Stipulation, Ms. Edwards will comply with all laws and rules governing teacher certification in Idaho.

C. Non-Compliance with this Stipulation

20. If the Commission or the State Department of Education, or its employees or agents, have reason to believe that Ms. Edwards has not complied with the terms of this Stipulation, the Chief Certification Officer may file a Notice of Non-Compliance with the Commission. This Notice of Non-Compliance will be personally served or be served by certified mail on Ms. Edwards at her last known address (or on her attorney). After granting Ms. Edwards an opportunity to respond, the Commission may order that she complete the discipline in the original stipulated discipline, may order further discipline in addition to Ms. Edwards completing the original stipulated discipline, or may impose other discipline as it sees fit, including suspending or revoking Ms. Edwards's certificate.

D. Presentation of this Stipulation

21. Once Ms. Edwards signs this Stipulation and timely returns it to the Commission, and the Executive Committee signs this Stipulation, the Deputy Attorney General assigned to the Commission will present this Stipulation to the Commission at the Commission's next business meeting.

22. The Commission may accept, reject, or modify the Stipulation.

23. If the Commission modifies this Stipulation, it must receive Ms. Edwards's approval on any modification before the Stipulation is effective.

E. Waiver of Rights