

IDAHO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

In the matter of the certificate of:

Krista E. Curtis,

Respondent

Case No. 21825

STIPULATION

BACKGROUND

The Professional Standards Commission received an allegation of unethical conduct concerning Krista E. Curtis. 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 Krista E. Curtis's certificate. The Executive Committee has recommended the following Stipulation.

STIPULATION

1. This is an agreement (Stipulation) between Krista E. Curtis (Ms. Curtis) and the Executive Committee (the Executive Committee) of the Professional Standards Commission (the Commission).
2. If Ms. Curtis 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 **February 15, 2019**, unless she has been granted an extension.
3. After Ms. Curtis 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.

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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. Curtis holds the following certificate and endorsements issued under the authority of the Idaho State Board of Education:
 - a. Standard Secondary certificate with endorsements in English (6-12) and Mathematics (6-12) effective September 1, 2016, through August 31, 2021.
7. At the beginning of the 2017-18 school year, Ms. Curtis applied to the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA).
8. Ms. Curtis did not hear back from the DoDEA for over a year.
9. On June 14, 2018, Ms. Curtis had entered into a contract with the Nampa School District No.131 (“District”) to serve as a teacher at Skyview High School for the 2018-2019 school year.
10. In early August 2018, Ms. Curtis received a phone call for an interview for a math teaching job at Fort Knox High School on the Fort Knox Army Base.
11. Ms. Curtis was officially offered the position on August 17, 2018, which came five days before the beginning of the start of the academic school year in the District.
12. Upon receiving the offer, and before responding to the DoDEA, Ms. Curtis went to the Nampa School District office to discuss her situation with the head of human resources.
13. Ms. Curtis was directed to the District’s head of teacher contracts and instructed to inform her administrators immediately, which she did.

14. Ms. Curtis was informed that they would post the position and that it was possible that she might be released from her contract, if a replacement could be found.

15. Ms. Curtis herself then attempted to find a replacement for her teaching position.

16. Ms. Curtis reached out to a math teacher who had retired from Skyview High School to see if he could be a long-term substitute teacher until a permanent replacement could be found and if he was available from August through October.

17. Ms. Curtis then contacted everyone she knew to see if the position could be filled, including contacting the math departments at Northwest Nazarene University and Treasure Valley Community College.

18. Ms. Curtis asked her mother, who works at Boise State University, to see if she could help find a replacement by talking to multiple people within the math department about the position.

19. After these efforts were made, Ms. Curtis made the decision to accept the DoDEA position at Fort Knox High School.

20. Before she left Skyview, she left two weeks' worth of substitute plans; provided the substitute teacher with the login to her personal OneDrive so that her PowerPoint presentations, worksheets, quizzes, and tests that she had collected over the past seven years could be used.

21. Having consider all of this information, the Executive Committee determined that probable cause exists for initiating an administrative action against Ms. Curtis for violating the following laws and rule governing teacher certification:

- a. Ms. Curtis's conduct or course of conduct violated Idaho Code § 33-1208(1)(c) ("Breach of the teaching contract").

- b. Ms. Curtis'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. Curtis violated Code of Ethics Principle VIII (Idaho Admin. Code r. 08.02.02.076.09) ("A professional educator fulfills all terms and obligations detailed in the contract with the local board of education or education agency for the duration of the contract.").

22. Ms. Curtis, although not admitting that she violated the laws and rules 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

23. If this Stipulation is approved by the Commission, and understanding that the full Commission usually imposes a one-year suspension on a certificate for breach of contract, the following discipline will be imposed by the Commission on Ms. Curtis's certificate:

- a. The Commission issue and place a letter of reprimand in Ms. Curtis's certification file.

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

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

C. PRESENTATION OF THIS STIPULATION

26. Once Ms. Curtis 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.

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

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

D. WAIVER OF RIGHTS

29. If this Stipulation is approved by the Commission, Ms. Curtis knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily waives the following rights:

- a. the right to a hearing;
- b. the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses;
- c. the right to present evidence or to call witnesses, or to testify at a hearing;
- d. the right to reconsideration of the Commission's orders;
- e. the right to judicial review of the Commission's orders; and
- f. other rights accorded by the Idaho Administrative Procedure Act, and the law and rules governing teacher certification in the State of Idaho.

30. If this Stipulation is approved by the Commission, the Commission may impose discipline upon Ms. Curtis's certificate without further process.

31. By signing this Stipulation, Ms. Curtis agrees to waive any requirement for a hearing under Idaho Code § 33-1209(3) to be conducted within 90 days of a request for a hearing. This waiver applies to any hearing request made before the Commission ultimately rejects this Stipulation (if it does) or before Ms. Curtis ultimately rejects a modified stipulation (if Ms. Curtis does). If the Commission ultimately rejects this Stipulation or if Ms. Curtis ultimately rejects a modified stipulation, and Ms. Curtis has requested a hearing, the 90-day hearing timeframe will begin from the ultimate rejection.

E. GENERAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

32. This Stipulation contains the entire agreement between the parties, and Ms. Curtis is not relying on any other agreement or representation, whether verbal or written.

33. This Stipulation, if approved by the Commission, or modified and approved, resolves a contested case. If approved, the Stipulation, consent order, and any attachment are public records. And if approved, the Commission may make available through its or the State Department of Education's website a copy of the Stipulation, consent order, and any attachment, and may report any discipline to the national clearinghouse for teacher certification.

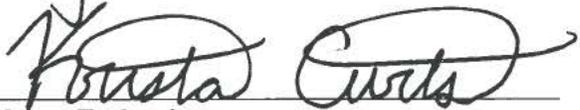
34. Ms. Curtis agrees that she has read this Stipulation, has had the opportunity to discuss it with legal counsel, if she so chose, and understands that by signing below, she will be agreeing to the terms of this Stipulation.

SIGNATURES

Respondent

The respondent, Krista E. Curtis, agrees to this Stipulation.

DATED this 8 day of February, 2019.



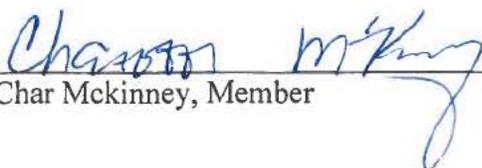
Krista E. Curtis
Respondent

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee recommends that the Commission enter an Order based upon this Stipulation.

DATED this 4 day of April, 2019.

IDAHO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Char Mckinney, Member

IDAHO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

In the matter of the certificate of:

Krista E. Curtis

Respondent

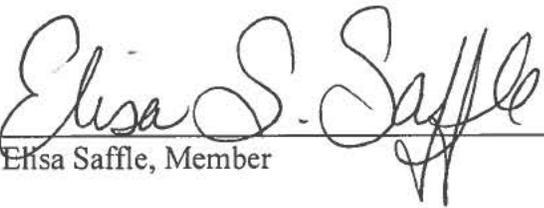
Case No. 21825

CONSENT ORDER

The Professional Standards Commission orders that the Stipulation, entered between Krista E. Curtis and the Executive Committee, is adopted as the informal disposition of this case, as permitted under Idaho Code § 67-5241. It will be effective on the ____ day of April, 2019. The discipline listed in the Stipulation is imposed on Krista E. Curtis's certificate under Idaho Code §§ 33-1208 and 33-1209. This is a final agency order, and Krista E. Curtis has waived the right of judicial review.

DATED this 04 day of April, 2019

IDAHO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION


Elisa Saffle, Member

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 10th day of April, 2019, I caused to be served a true and correct copy of the foregoing by the following method to:

Krista E. Curtis



- U.S. Mail
- Hand Delivery
- Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested
- Overnight Mail
- Facsimile:
- Email:

Robert A. Berry
Deputy Attorney General
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0010

- U.S. Mail
- Hand Delivery
- Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested
- Overnight Mail
- Facsimile: (208) 854-8073
- Email: robert.berry@ag.idaho.gov
leslie.gottsch@ag.idaho.gov

Annette Schwab
Program Specialist
Idaho State Department of Education



STATE OF IDAHO
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PO BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

OFFICE
650 W State Street
PHONE
(208) 332-6884
FAX
(208) 334-2228
SPEECH/HEARING IMPAIRED
(800) 377-3529

RE: Krista E. Curtis
Professional Standards Commission Case No. 21825

LETTER OF REPRIMAND

The Professional Standards Commission issues a formal reprimand to Krista E. Curtis.

The Executive Committee found that probable cause existed to warrant the filing of an administrative complaint against Ms. Curtis's certificate by the Chief Certification Officer. In lieu of proceeding to hearing, Ms. Curtis stipulated to discipline through this letter of reprimand for breaching her teacher contract with Nampa School District No.131 ("District") in the 2018-2019 school year. Ms. Curtis is hereby reprimanded for such behavior. The Chief Certification Officer is directed to issue and place this letter of reprimand in Ms. Curtis certification file.

Dated this 10 day of April, 2019.

IDAHO STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Lisa Colon Durham, Chief Certification Officer

c: Robert A. Berry, Attorney for the Chief Certification Officer