

IDAHO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

In the matter of the certificate of:

MaryCatherine Latta,

Respondent

Case No. 22201

STIPULATION

BACKGROUND

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

STIPULATION

1. This is an agreement (Stipulation) between MaryCatherine Latta (Ms. Latta) and the Executive Committee (the Executive Committee) of the Professional Standards Commission (the Commission).

2. After Ms. Latta 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.

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

Professional Standards Commission

650 W. State St. 2nd Floor

P.O. Box 83720

Boise, ID 83720-0027

Fax: (208) 334-2228 (Attn: Professional Standards Commission)

A. STIPULATED FACTS AND LAW

4. The Commission regulates educator certification in Idaho.
5. Ms. Latta holds the following certificate and endorsements issued under the authority of the Idaho State Board of Education:
 - a. Interim Pupil Personnel Services with Speech-Language Pathologist endorsement, effective January 1, 2021, through August 31, 2024.
6. Ms. Latta entered a contract with Lewiston School District to serve as a Speech and Language Pathologist in the District for the 2021-2022 school year.
7. Ms. Latta submitted a request to be released from her contract for the 2021-22 school year on August 17, 2021.
8. Ms. Latta submitted a letter of resignation on October 6, 2021, and stated it would be effective November 5, 2021.
9. The Board of Directors considered the request at an October 11, 2021, meeting where the Board stated her release would only be granted when a suitable replacement could be secured.
10. The District was unable to find a suitable replacement, but on November 3, 2021, Ms. Latta sent an email informing the District that it was her last day working and did not return to work after that date.
11. The school board trustees did not release Ms. Latta from her contract.
12. The Executive Committee determined that probable cause exists for initiative an administrative action against Ms. Latta for violating the following laws and rule governing educator certification:

- a. Ms. Latta's conduct or course of conduct willfully violated a principle of the code of ethics that was adopted by the Idaho State Board of education. Idaho Code § 33-1208(1)(j) ("Willful violation of any professional code or standard of ethics or conduct, adopted by the state board of education."). Specifically, Ms. Latta 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 educators or education agency for the duration of the contract.").

13. Ms. Latta admits that she violated the laws and rules cited in paragraph 12 and acknowledges that there is sufficient evidence to support a finding of a violation of the laws and rule cited in paragraph 12.

B. STIPULATED DISCIPLINE

14. If this Stipulation is approved by the Commission, the following discipline will be imposed by the Commission on Ms. Latta's certificates:

- a. A letter of reprimand will be placed in her certification file.
- b. Ms. Latta must take an ethics course that may not be used for renewal purposes.

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

16. During the pendency of this Stipulation Ms. Latta will comply with all laws and rules governing educator certification in Idaho.

C. PRESENTATION OF THIS STIPULATION

17. Once Ms. Latta 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.

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

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

D. WAIVER OF RIGHTS

20. If this Stipulation is approved by the Commission, Ms. Latta 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.

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

22. By signing this Stipulation, Ms. Latta 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. Latta ultimately rejects a modified stipulation (if Ms. Latta does). If the Commission ultimately rejects this Stipulation or if Ms. Latta ultimately rejects a

modified stipulation, and Ms. Latta has requested a hearing, the 90-day hearing timeframe will begin from the ultimate rejection.

E. GENERAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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

24. 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.

25. Ms. Latta 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.

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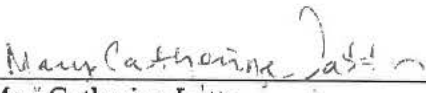
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SIGNATURES

Respondent

The Respondent, MaryCatherine Latta, agrees to this Stipulation.

DATED this 18 day of May, 2022.



MaryCatherine Latta
Respondent

Executive Committee

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

DATED this 16 day of June, 2022

IDAHO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Kathy Davis, Member

IDAHO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

In the matter of the certificate of:

MaryCatherine Latta

Respondent

Case No. 22201
CONSENT ORDER

The Professional Standards Commission orders that the Stipulation, entered between MaryCatherine Latta 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 16 day of June, 2022. The discipline listed in the Stipulation is imposed on MaryCatherine Latta's certificate under Idaho Code §§ 33-1208 and 33-1209. This is a final agency order, and MaryCatherine Latta has waived the right of judicial review.

IDAHO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION



Karen Pyron, Member

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 24th day of June, 2022, I caused to be served a true and correct copy of the foregoing by the following method to:

MaryCatherine Latta, Respondent



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

*Attorney for the
Chief Certification Officer*
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.gottsich@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: MaryCatherine Latta
Professional Standards Commission Case No. 22201

LETTER OF REPRIMAND

The Professional Standards Commission issues a formal reprimand to MaryCatherine Latta.

The Executive Committee found that probable cause existed to warrant the filing of an administrative complaint against MaryCatherine Latta's certificate by the Chief Certification Officer. Ms. Latta entered into stipulated discipline. The full Professional Standards Commission considered the case and adopted the discipline recommended by the Executive Committee, which was incorporated into the stipulated discipline. Accordingly, a letter of reprimand is now issued based upon Ms. Latta breaching her educator contract, a violation of Code of Ethics Principle VIII. The Chief Certification Officer is directed to issue and place this letter of reprimand in Ms. Latta's certification file.

Dated this 7th day of June, 2022.

IDAHO STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bethani Studebaker', written over a horizontal line.

Bethani Studebaker, Chief Certification Officer

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