

IDAHO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

In the matter of the certificate of:

Steffanie S. May,

Respondent

Case No. 21902

STIPULATION

BACKGROUND

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

STIPULATION

1. This is an agreement (Stipulation) between Steffanie S. May (Ms. May) and the Executive Committee (the Executive Committee) of the Professional Standards Commission (the Commission).

2. If Ms. May 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 or before **April 26, 2019**, unless she has been granted an extension.

3. After Ms. May 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. May holds the following certificate and endorsement issued under the authority of the Idaho State Board of Education:
 - a. Standard Elementary certificate with All Subjects (K-8) endorsement, effective September 1, 2014, through August 31, 2019.
7. Ms. May was employed by West Ada School District (“District”) for the 2018-2019 school year at Pepper Ridge Elementary School.
8. During the fall of 2018, money went missing from a teacher’s purse while it was left in her classroom.
9. It was only after the teacher placed video cameras in her classroom that she was able to identify Ms. May as the individual taking money from her.
10. When confronted, Ms. May admitted to taking money from her colleague on multiple occasions.
11. The Executive Committee determined that probable cause exists for initiating an administrative action against Ms. May for violating the following laws and rule governing teacher certification:
 - a. Ms. May’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. May violated Code of Ethics Principle IV

(Idaho Admin. Code r. 08.02.02.076.05) (“A professional educator exemplifies honesty and integrity in the course of professional practice.”).

12. Ms. May admits that she violated the laws and rules cited in paragraph 11 and acknowledges that there is sufficient evidence to support a finding of a violation of the laws and rule cited in paragraph 11.

B. STIPULATED DISCIPLINE

13. If this Stipulation is approved by the Commission, the following discipline will be imposed by the Commission on Ms. May’s certificate:

- a. The Commission will issue a letter of reprimand and Ms. May must take a PSC approved three credits ethics course that may not be used for renewal purposes.

14. Any costs associated with Ms. May’s compliance with the terms of this Stipulation are her responsibility.

C. PRESENTATION OF THIS STIPULATION

15. Once Ms. May 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.

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

17. If the Commission modifies this Stipulation, it must receive Ms. May’s approval on any modification before the Stipulation is effective.

D. WAIVER OF RIGHTS

18. If this Stipulation is approved by the Commission, Ms. May 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.

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

20. By signing this Stipulation, Ms. May 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. May ultimately rejects a modified stipulation (if Ms. May does). If the Commission ultimately rejects this Stipulation or if Ms. May ultimately rejects a modified stipulation, and Ms. May has requested a hearing, the 90-day hearing timeframe will begin from the ultimate rejection.

F. GENERAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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

22. 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.

23. Ms. May 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.

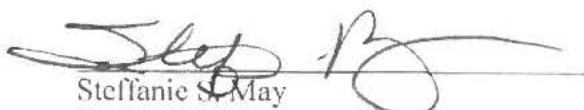
23. Ms. May agrees that she has read this Stipulation, has had the opportunity to discuss it with legal counsel, if she so chose, and understands that by signing below, she will be agreeing to the terms of this Stipulation.

SIGNATURES

Respondent

The respondent, Steffanie S. May, agrees to this Stipulation.

DATED this 15 day of April, 2019.


Steffanie S. May
Respondent

Executive Committee

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

DATED this 19 day of Sept, 2019.

IDAHO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE


Char McKinney, Member


IDAHO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

In the matter of the certificate of:

Steffanie S. May

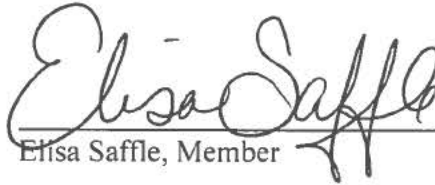
Respondent

Case No. 21902

CONSENT ORDER

The Professional Standards Commission orders that the Stipulation, entered between Steffanie S. May 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 19 day of ~~June~~ ^{Sept.}, 2019. The discipline listed in the Stipulation is imposed on Steffanie S. May's certificate under Idaho Code §§ 33-1208 and 33-1209. This is a final agency order, and Steffanie S. May has waived the right of judicial review.

IDAHO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION


Elisa Saffle, Member

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 20th Sept day of ~~June~~, 2019, I caused to be served a true and correct copy of the foregoing by the following method to:

Steffanie S. May



- 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.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

5701T
650 W State Street
PHONE
(208) 332-6884
TAX
(208) 334-2228
SPEECH/HEARING IMPAIRED
(800) 377-3529

RE: Steffanie S. May
Professional Standards Commission Case No. 21902

LETTER OF REPRIMAND

The Professional Standards Commission issues a formal reprimand to Steffanie S. May.

The Executive Committee found that probable cause existed to warrant the filing of an administrative complaint against Ms. May's certificate by the Chief Certification Officer. In lieu of filing an answer, Ms. May entered into stipulated discipline. The full Professional Standards Commission considered her 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. May's behavior where she failed to exemplify honest and integrity in the course of her professional practice when she stole money from a fellow colleague, which is a violation of Code of Ethics Principle IV. Ms. May is hereby reprimanded for such behavior. The Chief Certification Officer is directed to issue and place this letter of reprimand in Ms. May's certification file.

Dated this 23 day of June, 2019.

IDAHO STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Lisa Colon Durham, Chief Certification Officer

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