

IDAHO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

In the matter of the certificate of:

Dana Strong,

Respondent

Case No. 22212

STIPULATION

BACKGROUND

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

STIPULATION

1. This is an agreement (Stipulation) between Dana Strong (Mr. Strong) and the Executive Committee (the Executive Committee) of the Professional Standards Commission (the Commission).

2. If Mr. Strong wishes to agree to this Stipulation, he must sign and return this stipulation and any attachments to the Commission by 5:00 p.m. (Mountain Time) on July 29, 2022, unless he has been granted an extension.

3. After Mr. Strong 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:

STIPULATION – 1
Dana Strong

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

5. The Commission regulates educator certification in Idaho.
6. Mr. Strong holds the following certificate and endorsements issued under the authority of the Idaho State Board of Education:
 7. Mr. Strong holds the following certificate and endorsements issued under the authority of the Idaho State Board of Education:
 - a. Standard Instructional Certificate with Social Studies (6-12) and History (6-12) endorsements, effective July 17, 2020, through August 31, 2024 and September 1, 2019, through August 31, 2024, respectively.
8. Mr. Strong was employed as a teacher in the Hagerman Joint School District No. 233 for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years.
 9. During these school years, Mr. Strong and a student engaged in multiple text and email communications that were personal, unprofessional, and unbecoming of an educator.
 10. The Executive Committee determined that probable cause exists for initiating an administrative action against Mr. Strong for violating the following laws and rules governing educator certification:
 - a. Mr. Strong'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, Mr.

Strong 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 classroom.”).

11. Mr. Strong admits that he violated the laws and rules cited in paragraph 10 and acknowledges that there is sufficient evidence to support a finding of a violation of the laws and rules cited in paragraph 10.

B. STIPULATED DISCIPLINE

12. If this Stipulation is approved by the Commission, the following discipline will be imposed by the Commission on Mr. Strong’s certificate:

- a. Mr. Strong’s certificate be suspended for one year.
- b. Mr. Strong must take an approved PSC ethics course, which may not be used for renewal purposes.
- c. Mr. Strong must take an approved PSC boundaries course, which may not be used for renewal purposes.

13. Any costs associated with Mr. Strong’s compliance with the terms of this Stipulation are his responsibility.

14. During the pendency of this Stipulation Mr. Strong will comply with all laws and rules governing educator certification in Idaho.

C. PRESENTATION OF THIS STIPULATION

15. Once Mr. Strong 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 Mr. Strong's approval on any modification before the Stipulation is effective.

D. WAIVER OF RIGHTS

18. If this Stipulation is approved by the Commission, Mr. Strong 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;

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

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

E. GENERAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

21. This Stipulation contains the entire agreement between the parties, and Mr. Strong 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. Mr. Strong agrees that he has read this Stipulation, has had the opportunity to discuss it with legal counsel, if he so chose, and understands that by signing below, he will be agreeing to the terms of this Stipulation.

SIGNATURES

Respondent

The Respondent, Dana Strong, agrees to this Stipulation.

DATED this 26th day of July, 2022.


Dana Strong
Respondent

Executive Committee

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

DATED this 16 day of September, 2022

IDAHO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE


Chanel Harming, Member

IDAHO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

In the matter of the certificate of:

Dana Strong,

Respondent

Case No. 22212
CONSENT ORDER

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

IDAHO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION



Karen Byron, Member

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 21st day of September, 2022, I caused to be served a true and correct copy of the foregoing by the following method to:

Dana Strong, 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.gottsche@ag.idaho.gov

Annette Schwab
Program Specialist