

IDAHO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

In the matter of the certificate of:

Ashley Vanwert,

Respondent

Case No. 22333

STIPULATION

BACKGROUND

The Professional Standards Commission received an allegation of unethical conduct concerning Ashley Vanwert. 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 Ashley Vanwert’s certificate. The Executive Committee has recommended the following Stipulation.

STIPULATION

1. This is an agreement (Stipulation) between Ashley Vanwert (Ms. Vanwert) and the Executive Committee of the Professional Standards Commission (the Commission).
2. If Ms. Vanwert 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, 2024, unless she has been granted an extension.
3. After Ms. Vanwert 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 W. State St. 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 83720

A. STIPULATED FACTS AND LAW

5. The Commission regulates educator certification in Idaho.
6. Ms. Vanwert holds the following certificate and endorsements issued under the authority of the Idaho State Board of Education.
 - a. Pupil Service Staff Certificate with School Counselor – Basic (K-12) and School Social Worker endorsements, effective September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2028.
7. Ms. Vanwert was employed by the Post Falls School District during the 2023-2024 school year as a teacher.
8. On information and belief, the following occurred during Ms. Vanwert's employment.
9. On May 31, 2023, Ms. Vanwert signed a contract with the Post Falls School District for employment for the 2023-2024 school year.
10. On October 4, 2023, Ms. Vanwert submitted a letter of resignation to the school district and resigned her position. She did not fulfill the terms of her contract for the 2023-2024 school year.
11. On October 9, 2023, the Post Falls School District Board of Trustees unanimously denied acceptance of Ms. Vanwert's letter of resignation. The Post Falls School District Board of Trustees did not agree to release Ms. Vanwert from her contract.
12. The Executive Committee determined that probable cause exists for initiating an administrative action against Ms. Vanwert for violating the following laws and rules governing educator certification:

- a. Ms. Vanwert’s conduct or course of conduct described in paragraphs 9-11 willfully violated a principle of the code of ethics that was adopted by the Idaho State Board of education. Idaho Code § 33-1208(1) (“Willful violation of any professional code or standard of ethics or conduct, adopted by the state board of education.”). Specifically, Ms. Vanwert 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. Vanwert 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 rules 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. Vanwert’s certificate:

- a. Issue a letter of reprimand to be placed in her certification file and complete an approved ethics course prior to renewal of her certificate. The course may not be used to meet the renewal credit requirement.
- b. Any costs associated with Ms. Vanwert’s compliance with the terms of this Stipulation are her responsibility.

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

C. PRESENTATION OF THIS STIPULATION

16. Once Ms. Vanwert 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.

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

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

D. WAIVER OF RIGHTS

19. If this Stipulation is approved by the Commission, Ms. Vanwert 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;

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

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

E. GENERAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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

23. 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.

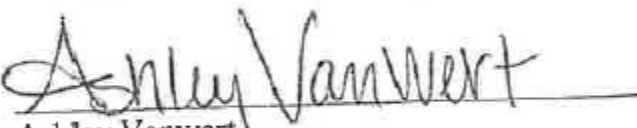
24. Ms. Vanwert agrees that she has read this Stipulation, has had the opportunity to discuss it with legal counsel, if she so chose, and understands that by signing below, she will be agreeing to the terms of this Stipulation.

SIGNATURES

Respondent

The Respondent, Ashley Vanwert, agrees to this Stipulation.

DATED this ninth day August, of 2024.


Ashley Vanwert
Respondent

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Executive Committee

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

DATED this 20th day of September 2024.

IDAHO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Angela Gillman
Angela Gillman, Member

IDAHO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

In the matter of the certificate of:

Ashley Vanwert,

Respondent

Case No. 22333

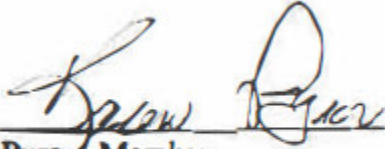
CONSENT ORDER

The Professional Standards Commission orders that the Stipulation, entered between Ashley Vanwert 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 20 day of:

September, 2024. The discipline listed in the Stipulation is imposed on Ashley Vanwert's certificates under Idaho Code §§ 33-1208 and 33-1209. This is a final agency order, and Ashley Vanwert has waived the right of judicial review.

IDAHO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION



Karen Pyron, Member

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 25th day of September, 2024, I caused to be served a true and correct copy of the foregoing by the following method to:

Ashley Vanwert



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

*Attorney for the
Chief Certification Officer*
Kyle D. Grigsby
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: kyle.grigsby@ag.idaho.gov
laura.kauffman@ag.idaho.gov

Annette Schwab
Coordinator
Idaho Department of Education



Idaho Professional Standards Commission

RE: Ashley Vanwert
Professional Standards Commission Case No. 22333

LETTER OF REPRIMAND

The Professional Standards Commission issues a formal reprimand to Ashley Vanwert.

The Executive Committee found that probable cause existed to warrant the filing of an administrative complaint against Ms. Vanwert's certificate by the Chief Certification Officer. After an administrative complaint was filed, Ms. Vanwert stipulated that she breached her contract with the Post Falls School District and abandoned her classroom, which is a violation of Idaho Code § 33-1208(1)(c) and Code of Ethics Principle VIII. The full Professional Standards Commission considered her case and adopted the stipulated discipline recommended by the Executive Committee. Accordingly, a letter of reprimand is now issued, and Ms. Vanwert is hereby reprimanded for such behavior. The Chief Certification Officer is directed to issue and place this letter of reprimand in Ms. Vanwert's certification file.

Dated this 25 day of September, 2024.

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Cina Lackey', is written over a horizontal line.

Cina Lackey, Chief Certification Officer

cc: Kyle Grigsby, Attorney for the Chief Certification Officer