



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Chris Reykdal Old Capitol Building · PO BOX 47200 · Olympia, WA 98504-7200 · <http://www.k12.wa.us>

IN THE MATTER OF THE EDUCATION)	
CERTIFICATE OF)	OPP No. D22-040-19
)	
CLARK NORTON)	AGREED ORDER
Certificate No. 457521C)	OF SUSPENSION
)	

After receiving and investigating a complaint from Shoreline Public Schools (“School District”) regarding the above referenced educator, and based upon the facts available as of the date of this Agreed Order, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, through his undersigned designee, does hereby stipulate, by and between, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Office of Professional Practices and CLARK NORTON (“Educator”) that CLARK NORTON engaged in acts of unprofessional conduct to include RCW 28A.410.090(5) and WAC 181-87-060 and that the Educator’s Washington Education Certificate No. 457521C shall be SUSPENDED for not less than nine (9) months with conditions enumerated below, based on the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On September 3, 2008, the Educator was issued Washington Education Certificate No. 457521C. The Educator’s certificate will expire on June 30, 2027.
2. During the 2021–2022 school year, the Educator was employed by the School District at Kellogg Middle School as a classroom teacher and wrestling coach.

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CLARK NORTON
AGREED ORDER OF SUSPENSION

3. On March 23, 2022, the Office of Professional Practices (“OPP”) within the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (“OSPI”) received a complaint from Dr. Susana Reyes, the Superintendent of the School District, alleging that the Educator has committed unprofessional conduct pursuant to WAC 181-87 for an act of sexual self-gratification on School District property.
4. During the 2021–2022 school year, the Educator viewed images depicting sexually explicit conduct while on school property.
5. On February 16, 2022, students observed the educator engaging in self-satisfactory sexual conduct while he was in his classroom.
6. On February 16, 2022, the Educator was placed on administrative leave.
7. On March 8, 2022, the Educator participated in an interview with School District administrators. During the interview, the Educator admitted to engaging in self-satisfactory sexual conduct in his classroom on viewing images depicting sexually explicit conduct while on school property. The Educator said that he viewed such images while in his car on School District property before a school day started and after a school day ended.
8. On March 17, 2022, the Educator was issued a Letter of Reprimand. The Educator was also directed to obtain a counseling assessment through the School District EAP and complete any and all recommended treatment.
9. On April 18, 2022, the EAP sent the School District a letter stating the Educator had met with a counseling provider and, after assessment, no further treatment was recommended.
10. On January 4, 2023, the Educator participated in an interview with OPP. During the interview, the Educator stated that he had engaged in self-satisfactory sexual conduct in his classroom only one time and that he had viewed, before a school day started and after a school day ended while on School District property, images depicting sexually explicit conduct five or six times over a period of years.

II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Chapter 28A.410 RCW gives the Professional Educator Standards Board the authority to develop regulations determining eligibility for and certification of personnel employed in the common schools of the state of Washington. OSPI acts as the administrator of those statutes and regulations and has the authority to issue, reprimand, suspend, and revoke education certificates. RCW 28A.410.010; RCW 28A.410.090. Chapters 181-86 and 181-87 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) further implement OSPI's authority.

2. OSPI has jurisdiction over the Educator and the subject matter of this action.

3. The Educator committed acts of unprofessional conduct pursuant to WAC 181-87-060 and RCW 28A.410.090(5).

4. There is a clear and convincing evidence that the Educator committed acts of unprofessional conduct pursuant to WAC 181-86-170.

5. Pursuant to WAC 181-86-080, eleven factors, at a minimum, are to be considered to determine the appropriate level and range of educator discipline:

- (1) The seriousness of the act(s) and the actual or potential harm to persons or property;
- (2) The person's criminal history including the seriousness and amount of activity;
- (3) The age and maturity level of participant(s) at the time of the activity;
- (4) The proximity or remoteness of time in which the acts occurred;
- (5) Any activity that demonstrates a disregard for health, safety or welfare;
- (6) Any activity that demonstrates a behavioral problem;
- (7) Any activity that demonstrates a lack of fitness;
- (8) Any information submitted regarding discipline imposed by any governmental or private entity as a result of acts or omissions;
- (9) Any information submitted that demonstrates aggravating or mitigating circumstances;
- (10) Any information submitted to support character and fitness; and
- (11) Any other relevant information submitted.

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6. Based on the foregoing facts and considering them in light of the eleven factors enumerated in WAC 181-86-080, and in light of RCW 28A.410.090(5), WAC 181-86-070, and WAC 181-87-060, the Educator's education certificate should be suspended for unprofessional conduct and/or a behavioral problem which endangers the educational welfare or personal safety of students, teachers, or other colleagues within the educational setting.

III. ORDER

THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered and agreed that the Washington Education Certificate, No. 457521C of CLARK NORTON is **SUSPENDED**. The Educator may not request reinstatement of his education certificate for at least nine (9) months from the effective date of this ORDER.

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REINSTATEMENT of Clark Norton's education certificate shall require:

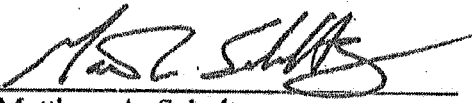
- (1) The Educator must submit a new application, including Character and Fitness Supplement, provided by OPP;
- (2) The Educator must complete a fingerprint-based criminal background check through both the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Washington State Patrol;
- (3) The Educator's fingerprint background check must return with no criminal convictions, occurring after the date of issuance of a Final Order of Suspension, that are listed in WAC 181-86-013, RCW 28A.410.090, or any felony convictions; AND
- (4) The Educator shall assume all costs of complying with the requirements of this Order.

WAIVER OF RIGHT TO APPEAL


The Educator is aware that RCW 28A.410.090(3) and WAC 181-86-140 afford him the right to appeal a denial or discipline order issued by OSPI. Acknowledging this, the Educator knowingly and voluntarily waives his right to appeal by entering into this Agreed Order of Suspension.

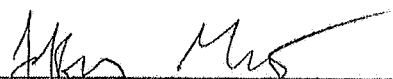
DATED this 30th day of June, 2023

CHRIS REYKDAL
Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Washington


Matthew A. Schultz
Chief Legal and Civil Rights Officer

Stipulated to and approved
For entry:


Clark Norton, Respondent


Jeffrey Musto, Attorney for Respondent
WSBA # 52805

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