



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

RANDY I. DORN 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. D12-04-023

James Ramage)
Certificate No. 306238G)

AGREED ORDER)
OF SUSPENSION)

COMES NOW the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, under the authority granted by the laws of the state of Washington, having reviewed the file of the above-referenced case, and having considered the entire evidence contained therein, does hereby stipulate by and between the Office of Professional Practices (OPP), Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), and James Ramage, that the Washington Education Certificate, No. 306238G, of James Ramage, shall be suspended, based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth below:

FINDING OF FACTS

1. James Ramage was issued a Washington Education Certificate, No. 306238G, on April 30, 1991. That certificate currently remains valid.

2. James Ramage was employed by the Othello School District.

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JAMES RAMAGE
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3. On March 28, 2012, the Office of Professional Practices, within OSPI, received a complaint letter from the superintendent of the Othello School District alleging a lack of good moral character or personal fitness, or a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct, Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 181-87, by James Ramage.

4. On May 5, 2003, James Ramage received a written reprimand for acting "inappropriately with outbursts of yelling in inappropriate manner".

5. On August 31, 2004, James Ramage received a letter from Bill Duncanson, Othello High School principal, discussing a two-year history of anger related outbursts in the classroom and previous history of anger management counseling. James Ramage was told that the outbursts needed to cease.

6. During the 2004-2005 school year, while escorting a group of Othello High School students on a trip to Canada, James Ramage had an inappropriate display of anger.

7. On June 13, 2005, James Ramage received a letter discussing the trip to Canada with students and James Ramage's agreement to start and continue an on-going counseling program. On August 25, 2005, James Ramage submitted a letter stating that he had retained the services of an anger management provider in Wenatchee, WA.

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8. On September 29, 2009, the school secretary called James Ramage's classroom. The secretary heard James Ramage make a comment of, or similar to, "Leave that phone alone, I'm going to come back there and rip that phone out of the wall". Shortly after this comment, the phone line was disconnected. James Ramage states the phone was on a desk and he hung up the phone and did not throw the phone.

9. On January 14, 2010, James Ramage participated in an inappropriate discussion with a male high school student over the display of a tattoo. During the discussion, James Ramage made a comment of, or similar to, "I'll cut it off".

10. On April 22, 2011, a male student was eating food in James Ramage's science classroom against classroom rules. James Ramage engaged in a struggle with the student as the student was attempting to spit the food into a trash can. After the incident, James Ramage made inappropriate comments to the students referencing killing students.

11. On June 16, 2011, James Ramage was issued a two-day suspension for the incident on April 22, 2011. As part of the suspension, James Ramage was required, among other requirements, to complete an anger management program and enroll in intensive therapy to deal with anger issues.

12. In November 2011, James Ramage had an inappropriate anger display and pulled a pencil sharpener out of a wall and threatened to throw it outside. James Ramage put the pencil sharpener in a trash can and did not throw it outside.

13. On November 30, 2011, James Ramage participated in a meeting with Matthew Stevens, Othello High School principal, regarding recent complaints of inappropriate anger displays. An agreement was reached that James Ramage would consider continuing to see a counselor or therapist for anger management issues.

14. On February 9, 2012, James Ramage displayed inappropriate anger to students regarding a student in another classroom. During the inappropriate display, James Ramage made comments of, or similar to, about the student that "he [James Ramage] should just slit his throat [the student]".

15. On February 22, 2012, James Ramage submitted a letter to Othello High School discussing the incident of February 9, 2012 and stated that he had decided to attend anger management services.

16. On February 27, 2012, James Ramage was verbally placed on administrative leave by Matthew Stevens.

17. On March 7, 2012, James Ramage submitted his resignation from the Othello School District. James Ramage had prepared lesson plans for a prospective substitute teacher for your classes for the remained of the school year.

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18. On July 24, 2013, James Ramage participated in an interview with an OPP investigator. During the interview, James Ramage admitted that he had displayed inappropriate anger outbursts to students and had made inappropriate comments during those times.

19. On or about August 30, 2013, James Ramage signed an Agreed Order of Reprimand. On September 4, 2013, the Agreed Order of Reprimand was signed at OSPI and enacted. In the Agreed Order of Reprimand, James Ramage agreed that within six (6) months of the effective date of the Agreed Order of Reprimand, he would, among other conditions, obtain an anger management evaluation from a provider mutually agreed upon by James Ramage and OPP follow and complete any and all treatment recommended in the anger management evaluation. James Ramage agreed that if he did not satisfy these conditions of the Agreed Order of Reprimand, he would agree to a six (6) month suspension of his certificate, beginning the effective date of the Agreed Order of Suspension.

20. March 5, 2014 is six (6) months from the effective date of the Agreed Order of Reprimand. As of March 6, 2014, James Ramage has not provided OPP with a completed anger management evaluation and has not contacted OPP to propose an anger management treatment evaluator.

21. Good moral character and personal fitness is a continuing requirement to maintain a Washington Education Certificate.

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CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. OSPI has jurisdiction over James Ramage and over the subject matter of this action.

2. OSPI has shown by clear and convincing evidence that the Washington Education Certificate No. 306238G, of James Ramage, should be suspended for unprofessional conduct and/or lack of good moral character or personal fitness. RCW 28A.410.090, WAC 181-86-070, WAC 181-87-060; WAC 181-86-013; WAC 181-86-014.

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ORDER

THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered and agreed that the Washington Education Certificate, No. 306238G, of James Ramage, be suspended for sixty (60) days from the date of entry of this Order.

Reinstatement will require: (1) completion of an anger management evaluation by an evaluator mutually agreed upon between James Ramage and OPP; (2) James Ramage providing written consent for OPP to release documents to the provider for purposes of completing the evaluation; (3) James Ramage follows and completes any and all treatment recommended in the evaluation; (4) that James Ramage will provide OPP with evidence of his successful completion of or continued compliance in his treatment program and; (5) if requested, James Ramage will sign consent forms authorizing OPP to have access to all records pertaining to his treatment and to discuss any and all treatment undertaken with the providers administering treatment. The cost of conformance to all requirements will be the responsibility of James Ramage.

AND Reinstatement shall (also) require: (1) submission of a new application, including Character and Fitness Supplement, provided by OPP and having James Ramage's fingerprints be checked by both the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Washington State Patrol (WSP); and (2) that if James Ramage's education certificate expires during the period of suspension, James Ramage will show that he meets all academic requirements for renewal/reinstatement of the education certificate. Reinstatement shall also be contingent upon James Ramage's fingerprint background check returning with no criminal convictions that are listed in WAC 181-86-013, RCW 28A.410.090, any felony convictions.

DATED This X 19 ^{OK amb} day of March ^{OK amb}, 2014.

RANDY I. DORN
Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Washington

Stipulated to and approved
For entry; notice of presentation
waived:

By: Alan Burke
Alan Burke, Ed. D.
Deputy Superintendent
K-12 Education

James C. Ramage
James Ramage, Respondent