



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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IN THE MATTER OF THE EDUCATION)	
CERTIFICATE OF)	OPP No. D19-03-029
)	
MATTHEW WOODFORD)	FINAL ORDER
Certificate No. 438845J)	OF MANDATORY
)	PERMANENT REVOCATION
)	

After receiving and investigating a criminal record report authorized by law enforcement regarding the above referenced educator, and based upon the facts available as of the date of this Proposed Order, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, through his undersigned designee, institutes this proceeding and finds, as described below, that MATTHEW WOODFORD (“Educator”) committed acts of unprofessional conduct pursuant to WAC 181-87-060 and WAC 181-87-080 and demonstrated a lack of good moral character and personal fitness pursuant to WAC 181-86-013 and WAC 181-86-014, and does hereby PERMANENTLY REVOKE the Educator’s Washington Education Certificate No. 438845J pursuant to RCW 28A.410.090(4)(c), based on the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On October 5, 2006, the Educator was issued Washington Education Certificate No. 438845J. The Educator’s certificate does not have a listed expiration date.
2. During the 2016–2017 school year, the Educator was employed as a Music Teacher for the Springfield School District at Thurston Middle School in Springfield, Oregon.

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MATTHEW WOODFORD
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3. On or about March 28 2019, the Office of Professional Practices (“OPP”) within the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (“OSPI”) learned the Educator was convicted of crime(s) specified in RCW 28A.410.090 and WAC 181-86-013, and committed act(s) of unprofessional conduct pursuant to WAC 181-87-060 and WAC 181-87-080.
4. On February 21, 2017, the Educator was indicted by the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Lane County for multiple charges of child sex abuse.
5. On July 6, 2017, the Educator pleaded guilty to Using a Child in Display of Sexually Explicit Conduct, Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 163.670 (Felony Class A), and Luring a Minor, ORS 167.057 (Felony Class C). State of Oregon Case No. 17CR07757.
6. On February 2, 2017, a student witnessed the Educator kissing a 14-year-old female student on the mouth (“Student A”) inside the Educator’s office located at Thurston Middle School. The Educator was seated with Student A on his lap. The Educator was immediately placed on administrative leave and a criminal investigation by law enforcement ensued.
7. Beginning in August 2016, the Educator communicated with Student A via text message, email, and the social media platform Snapchat. Their communications turned sexual in nature and the Educator began asking Student A to send him sexually explicit photographs and videos of herself, which she did. The Educator, in return, sent Student A sexually explicit photographs and videos of himself.
8. From January 2017 through February 2, 2017, the Educator kissed Student A on the mouth multiple times. The Educator also touched Student A’s bare breasts and her buttocks. These incidents occurred on school premises in the Educator’s office within Thurston Middle School.

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9. On July 6, 2017, the Educator was convicted, after a plea of guilty, of Using a Child in Display of Sexually Explicit Conduct and Luring a Minor. The Educator was sentenced to two terms of incarceration served concurrently: 70 months for Using a Child in Display of Sexually Explicit Conduct, 24 months for Luring a Minor, 36 months post-prison supervision, and a requirement to register as a sex offender.

10. On March 23, 2018, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission of the State of Oregon issued a Default Order of Denial Application and Revocation of Right to Apply for an Educator License, denying the Educator's Oregon teaching license renewal application and prohibiting him from reapplying.

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. Pursuant to WAC 181-86-070, there is clear and convincing evidence the Educator committed act(s) of unprofessional conduct under WAC 181-87-060(1) and WAC 181-87-080 when he engaged in sexual misconduct with a 14-year-old female student.

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4. Pursuant to WAC 181-86-070, there is clear and convincing evidence the Educator lacks good moral character and personal fitness under WAC 181-86-013 and WAC 181-86-014 when he engaged in sexual misconduct with a 14-year-old female student and pleaded guilty to crime(s) similar to those specified in RCW 28A.410.090(4).

5. Pursuant to RCW 28A.410.090(4), RCW 28A.400.322(2)(j), and WAC 181-86-013, such a plea or conviction bars the Educator from any future practice as an education professional and mandates PERMANENT REVOCATION of the Educator's Washington Education Certificate No. 438845J.

6. Pursuant to RCW 28A.400.322(2)(j), permanent mandatory revocation is required if an educator violates the laws of another jurisdiction that are similar to those specified in (a) through (i) of RCW 28A.400.322(2).

7. ORS 163.670 (Using a Child in Display of Sexually Explicit Conduct) is similar to RCW 9.68A.070 (Possession of Depictions of Minor Engaged in Sexually Explicit Conduct), a Class B Felony.

8. ORS 167.057 (Luring a Minor) is similar to RCW 9A.68A.090 (Communication with Minor for Immoral Purposes), a Gross Misdemeanor.

9. A conviction of RCW 9.68A.070 (Possession of Depictions of Minor Engaged in Sexually Explicit Conduct) bars the Educator from any future practice as an education professional and requires OSPI to permanently revoke the Educator's Washington state education certificate pursuant to RCW 28A.410.090(4).

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10. 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.

11. Based on the foregoing facts, and considering them in light of the eleven factors enumerated in WAC 181-86-080, and in light of WAC 181-86-075, RCW 28A.410.090(4), WAC 181-87, and WAC 181-86, the Educator's education certificate should be permanently revoked.

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III. ORDER

THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that the Washington Education Certificate No. 438845J of MATTHEW WOODFORD is **PERMANENTLY REVOKED**.

DATED this 23rd day of July, 2019.

CHRIS REYKDAL
Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Washington



Dierk Meierbachtol
Chief Legal Officer