



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)
JULIE SOISETH-FARMER)
Certificate No. 323276F)

OPP No. D22-11-057
AGREED ORDER
OF SUSPENSION

After receiving and investigating a complaint from Burlington-Edison School District (“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 JULIE SOISETH-FARMER (“Educator”) that JULIE SOISETH-FARMER engaged in acts of unprofessional conduct to include WAC 181-87-055 and that the Educator’s Washington Education Certificate No. 323276F 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 July 16, 1993, the Educator was issued Washington Education Certificate No. 323276F. The Educator’s certificate expired on June 30, 2023. The events described in the following Findings of Fact occurred while the Educator’s certificate was valid.
2. During the 2022–23 school year, the Educator was employed by the School District at Lucille Umbarger Elementary School as an 3rd grade classroom teacher.

3. On October 27, 2022, the Office of Professional Practices (“OPP”) within the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (“OSPI”) received a complaint from Laurel Browning, the Superintendent of the School District, alleging that the Educator has committed unprofessional conduct pursuant to WAC 181-87 for consumption of alcohol while on school grounds and for being under the influence of alcohol on school grounds.
4. On February 9, 2007, the Educator was placed on administrative leave pending a School District investigation into allegations that she was under the influence of alcohol while at school and being in possession of an alcoholic liquid on school premises.
5. On June 6, 2007, the Educator and the School District reached an agreement whereby the Educator was to remain in compliance with a substance treatment program and she would be returned to the classroom with no disciplinary action issued.
6. On February 10, 2010, the Educator was issued a Letter of Direction for a lack of judgment due to medications.
7. On June 9, 2022, the Educator consumed an alcoholic beverage, had the alcoholic beverage on school grounds, and was under the influence of alcohol on school grounds during the school day. Staff and students reported that the Educator had displayed erratic behaviors.
8. On June 9, 2022, the Educator was placed on administrative leave.
9. On August 7, 2022, the Educator completed a residential 30-day treatment program.
10. On August 15, 2022, the Educator began a treatment program though Hotel California By the Sea and was discharged on October 31, 2022.
11. On October 31, 2022, the School District issued the Educator a Notice of Probable Cause for Termination.
12. On December 7, 2022, the Educator was admitted to a treatment program though Hotel California By the Sea and was discharged on January 3, 2023.

13. On March 3, 2023, the Educator signed a Settlement Agreement with the School District. Per the agreement, the Educator was to remain on administrative leave, after utilizing accrued leave, until her resignation date of August 31, 2023.

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 181-87-055(3).
4. There is a clear and convincing evidence that the Educator committed acts of unprofessional conduct pursuant to WAC 181-86-170.

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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.

6. Pursuant to WAC 181-86-070, a suspension is appropriate discipline when:

(1)(b) The education practitioner has committed an act of unprofessional conduct or lacks good moral character but the superintendent of public instruction has determined that a suspension as applied to the particular education practitioner will probably deter subsequent unprofessional or other conduct which evidences lack of good moral character or personal fitness by such education practitioner, and believes the interest of the state in protecting the health, safety, and general welfare of students, colleagues, and other affected persons is adequately served by a suspension. Such order may contain a requirement that the education practitioner fulfill certain conditions before requesting reinstatement of the suspended certificate, and certain conditions after the reinstatement of the suspended certificate.

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(1)(c) The education practitioner lacks personal fitness but the superintendent of public instruction has determined the deficiency is correctable through remedial action and believes the interest of the state in protecting the health, safety, and general welfare of students, colleagues, and other affected persons is adequately served by a suspension which states the education practitioner fulfill certain conditions before requesting reinstatement of the suspended certificate, and certain conditions after the reinstatement of the suspended certificate.

7. 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 181-86-070, WAC 181-87-055(3), 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. 323276F of JULIE SOISETH-FARMER is **SUSPENDED**. The Educator may not request reinstatement of her education certificate for at least nine (9) months from the effective date of this ORDER.

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JULIE SOISETH-FARMER
AGREED ORDER OF SUSPENSION

REINSTATEMENT of Julie Soiseth-Farmer's education certificate shall require:

- (1) The Educator must successfully complete a **SUBSTANCE ABUSE EVALUATION** by a licensed substance abuse evaluation/treatment provider preapproved by OSPI;
- (2) The Educator shall provide written consent for OPP to release documents to the provider for purposes of completing the evaluation;
- (3) The Educator shall sign a consent allowing the examining substance abuse **evaluation/treatment provider to provide OPP a summary of the Educator's treatment recommendations, if any, and the results of her evaluation;**
- (4) The Educator, if treatment is recommended as a result of the evaluation, shall complete any and all recommended treatment and provide evidence of successful completion or, if continuing treatment is recommended, provide proof of continued compliance in the program to OPP;
- (5) The Educator must submit a new application, including Character and Fitness Supplement, provided by OPP;
- (6) The Educator must complete a fingerprint-based criminal background check through both the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Washington State Patrol;
- (7) **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;**
- (8) **The Educator's application for certification must be approved by the OSPI Certification Office, AND**
- (9) The Educator shall assume all costs of complying with the requirements of this Order.

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WAIVER OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

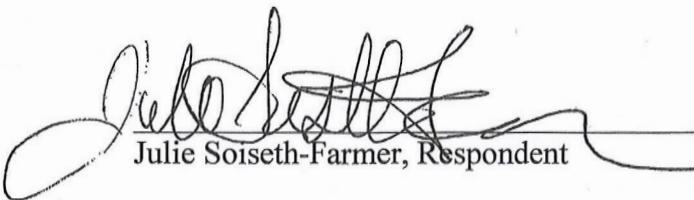
The Educator is aware that RCW 28A.410.090(3) and WAC 181-86-140 afford him/her the right to appeal a denial or discipline order issued by OSPI. Acknowledging this, the Educator knowingly and voluntarily waives his/her right to appeal by entering into this Agreed Order of Suspension.

DATED this 24th day of July, 2024

CHRIS REYKDAL
Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Washington


Matthew A. Schultz
Chief Legal and Civil Rights Officer

Stipulated to and approved
For entry:


Julie Soiseth-Farmer, Respondent