



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. D23-05-042
)	
JACOB JOHNSON)	FINAL ORDER
Certificate No. 558605B)	OF SUSPENSION
)	

After receiving and investigating a complaint from Puyallup School District (“School District”) 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 JACOB JOHNSON (“Educator”) engaged in acts of unprofessional conduct to include Washington Administrative Code (“WAC”) 181-87-055, and does hereby SUSPEND the Educator’s Washington Education Certificate No. 558605B for not less than twelve (12) months with conditions enumerated below, based on the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On December 28, 2020, the Educator was issued Washington Education Certificate No. 558605B. The Educator’s certificate, a Residency Teacher-First Issue, has no expiration date.
2. During the 2022–23 school year, the Educator was employed by the School District at Kalles Junior High School as a English Language Arts & Social Studies teacher.

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JACOB JOHNSON
 FINAL ORDER OF SUSPENSION

3. On May 18, 2023, the Office of Professional Practices (“OPP”) within the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (“OSPI”) received a complaint from John Polm, the Superintendent of the School District, alleging the Educator committed unprofessional conduct pursuant to WAC 181-87 for consumption of alcohol upon school premises.

4. On February 3, 2023, 8th grade students reported to Angie Reed, Kalles Junior High School Assistant Principal, that they had found empty White Claw hard alcohol seltzer cans in the Educator’s classroom filing cabinets.

5. Guy Kovacs, Kalles Junior High School Principal, spoke with the Educator about the White Claw cans. Although the Educator initially denied consuming alcohol on school premises, he eventually admitted to drinking alcoholic beverages on school premises.

6. Mr. Kovacs and Ms. Reed conducted a search of the Educator’s classroom and located ninety-two (92) alcoholic beverage containers in the room. Some of the beverage containers were partially full and some were completely full.

7. The Educator was placed on administrative leave on February 3, 2023.

8. On February 16, 2023, the Educator submitted his resignation from the School District effective February 17, 2023.

9. In July 2023, OPP contacted the educator multiple times to offer him an opportunity to respond to the allegations of misconduct. The Educator did not contact OPP and did not provide a response.

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II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Chapter 28A.410 Revised Code of Washington (“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 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 for consuming alcohol while on school premises.
4. There is 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. 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.

(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 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 that the Washington Education Certificate No. 558605B of Jacob Johnson is **SUSPENDED**. The Educator may not request reinstatement of his education certificate for at least twelve (12) months from the effective date of this ORDER.

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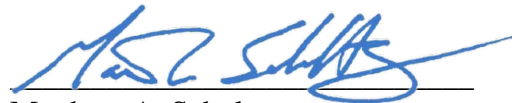
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REINSTATEMENT of JACOB JOHNSON’S education certificate shall require:

- (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; AND
- (8) The Educator shall assume all costs of complying with the requirements of this Order.

DATED this 27th day of November, 2024.

CHRIS REYKDAL
Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Washington



Matthew A. Schultz
Chief Legal and Civil Rights Office