



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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IN THE MATTER OF THE EDUCATION
CERTIFICATE OF

MATTHEW BROOKE
Certificate No. 561867C

OPP No. D23-07-051

FINAL ORDER
OF SUSPENSION

After receiving and investigating a complaint from Bethel 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 MATTHEW BROOKE (“Educator”) engaged in acts of unprofessional conduct to include Washington Administrative Code (“WAC”) 181-87-060, and does hereby SUSPEND the Educator’s Washington Education Certificate No. 561867C for not less than ninety (90) days with conditions enumerated below, based on the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On May 7, 2020, the Educator was issued Washington Education Certificate No. 561867C. The Educator’s certificate will expire on June 30, 2028.

2. During the 2021–22 and 2022–23 school years, the Educator was employed by the School District at three elementary schools as a physical education (PE) teacher.

3. On June 27, 2023, the Office of Professional Practices (“OPP”) within the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (“OSPI”) received a complaint from Tom Seigel, the Superintendent of the School District, alleging the Educator committed unprofessional conduct

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pursuant to WAC 181-87 for misuse of school property and unprofessional interactions with students.

4. In January 2022, at Camas Prairie Elementary School, the Educator was observed sitting with a group of 5th grade female students in an unpopulated area of the designated recess space. At the end of the school day, the Educator was observed sitting with a group of 5th grade female students. The Educator was later instructed by the Camas Prairie Elementary School principal to diversify the groups he was working with.

5. On February 28, 2022, the Educator engaged in a sexual act with another educator on the Roy Elementary School campus. The Educator was placed on administrative leave the same day.

6. On May 17, 2022, the Educator was issued a Letter of Reprimand from the School District for his actions on February 28, 2022.

7. In March 2023 at Clover Creek Elementary School, the Educator drew a face on the forehead of a 5th grade female student. The student's mother was a school administrator within the School District. The Educator told the student not to say anything to her mother because she would get mad.

8. On or about April 10, 2023, at Thompson Elementary School, the Educator tripped students as they were leaving his class. On or about the same day, the Educator pulled a student's hair. On April 17, 2023, during a meeting with the Thompson Elementary School principal, the Educator admitted to these actions and was directed to maintain appropriate boundaries with students.

9. On May 5, 2023, the Educator was issued a notice of non-renewal for the 2023–24 school year.

10. On May 10, 2023, the Educator submitted his resignation from employment with the School District; effective June 23, 2023.

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 181-87-060 in his misuse of school property for sexual acts and in his interactions with students.
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.

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 181-87-060 the Educator's education certificate should be suspended for unprofessional conduct.

III. ORDER


THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that the Washington Education Certificate No. 561867C of MATTHEW BROOKE is **SUSPENDED**. The Educator may not request reinstatement of his education certificate for at least ninety (90) days from the effective date of this ORDER.

REINSTATEMENT of Matthew Brooke's education certificate shall require:

- (1) In addition to any mandatory continuing education, the Educator must successfully complete a MAINTAINING BOUNDARIES course, preapproved by OSPI. The Educator will provide OSPI proof of completion of the course prior to requesting reinstatement;
- (2) The Educator must submit a new application, including Character and Fitness Supplement, provided by OPP;
- (3) The Educator must complete a fingerprint-based criminal background check through both the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Washington State Patrol;
- (4) 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
- (5) The Educator shall assume all costs of complying with the requirements of this Order.

DATED this 9th day of September, 2025.

CHRIS REYKDAL
Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Washington


Darryl E. Colman
Chief Legal and Civil Rights Officer