



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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IN THE MATTER OF THE EDUCATION)	
CERTIFICATE OF)	OPP No. D20-04-022
)	
PAUL ERICKSON)	FINAL ORDER
Certificate No. 462182G)	OF MANDATORY
)	PERMANENT REVOCATION
)	

After receiving and investigating a complaint from Stanwood-Camano 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 PAUL ERICKSON (Educator) demonstrated a lack of good moral character and personal fitness pursuant to WAC 181-86-013 and does hereby PERMANENTLY REVOKE the Educator's Washington Education Certificate No. 462182G, 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 April 7, 2009, the Educator was issued Washington Education Certificate No. 462182G. The Educator's certificate will expire on June 30, 3024.
2. During the 2019–2020 school year, the Educator was employed by the School District at Stanwood Middle School as a Science teacher.

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PAUL ERICKSON
FINAL ORDER OF MANDATORY PERMANENT REVOCATION

3. On April 3, 2020, the Office of Professional Practices (OPP) within the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) received a complaint from Jean Shumate, the Superintendent of the School District, stating the Educator may have violated RCW 28A.410.090 after being convicted of Assault 2nd Degree, RCW 9A.36.021(1)(c), and felony Harassment, RCW 9A.46.020 (1).

4. On January 9, 2020, the Educator displayed a handgun to his ex-wife, in front of their four-year-old child, and threatened to shoot her in the knee and then kill her. The Educator also stated he had planned to kill her over the past 6 (six) months and had contracted with persons to have her killed.

5. The Educator then forced his ex-wife to accompany him to his residence. At his residence, the Educator made additional threats to kill his ex-wife.

6. On January 10, 2020, the Educator was arrested by law enforcement officers and booked into the Snohomish County Jail.

7. On January 13, 2020, the Educator was notified by the District that he was not to report to work.

8. After his arrest, the Educator submitted his resignation to the District.

9. On January 16, 2020, an *Information* and an *Affidavit of Probable Cause* were filed in Snohomish County Superior Court, charging the Educator with 2nd Degree Assault, RCW 9A.36.021(1)(c), and felony Harassment, RCW 9A.46.020(1).

10. On March 13, 2020, a *Statement of Defendant on Plea of Guilty (felony)*, Cause Number 20-01-00090-31, was filed in Snohomish County Superior Court. In the *Statement*, the Educator pleaded guilty to 2nd Degree Assault and felony Harassment.

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11. On March 26, 2020, a *Judgment and Sentence*, Cause Number 20-1-00090-31, was filed in Snohomish County Superior Court. The Educator was found guilty by plea of 2nd Degree Assault, RCW 9A.36.021(1)(c), and felony Harassment, RCW 9A.46.020(1), and sentenced.

12. On May 26, 2020, OPP sent the Educator written notification of his opportunity to respond to allegations of professional misconduct and a lack of good moral character and personal fitness. On June 26, 2020, OPP received the Educator's written response.

13. On March 16, 2020, the Educator was convicted of 2nd Degree Assault, RCW 9A.36.021. Such a plea or conviction mandates OSPI to PERMANENTLY REVOKE the Educator's Washington Education Certificate No. 462182G, pursuant to RCW 28A.410.090(4).

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 has pleaded guilty to or has been convicted of a crime specified in RCW 28A.410.090(4).

4. Pursuant to RCW 28A.410.090(4) and WAC 181-86-013(1), a plea of guilty or a conviction of 2nd Degree Assault, RCW 9A.36.021 mandates OSPI to permanently revoke the Educator's certificate.

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5. The Educator has a behavioral problem that endangers the educational welfare or personal safety of students pursuant to WAC 181-86-013, -14.

6. There is clear and convincing evidence the Educator has a behavioral problem pursuant to WAC 181-86-170.

7. 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.

8. 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), and WAC 181-86, the Educator's education certificate should be permanently revoked for demonstrating a lack of good moral character and personal fitness pursuant to WAC 181-86-013(2) and committing a felony crime under RCW 28A.410.090(4) which bars the Educator from any future practice as an educator.

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III. ORDER

THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that the Washington Education Certificate No. 462182G of PAUL ERICKSON is **PERMANENTLY REVOKED**.

DATED this 15th day of September, 2020.

CHRIS REYKDAL
Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Washington

Signed: Dierk Meierbachtol
Chief Legal Officer