



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)
)
MIKE CRONIN)
Certificate No. 391162E)
)

OPP No. D19-02-008

AGREED ORDER
OF SUSPENSION

After receiving and investigating a complaint from Central Valley 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 MIKE CRONIN (“Educator”) that MIKE CRONIN exhibited behavior that demonstrates a lack of good moral character and/or personal fitness, as defined in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 181-86-013 and that the Educator’s Washington Education Certificate No. 391162E 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 August 31, 2001, the Educator, was issued Washington Education Certificate No. 391162E. The Educator’s certificate will expire on June 30, 2026.

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2. From 2005 to January 5, 2012, the Educator was employed by the School District at University High School as a Business Ed teacher. Based on the manner in which the Notice of Probable Cause was effected with the Educator, the termination was argued in Superior and Appellate Courts until December 2020 when the termination was upheld by a statutory hearing officer pursuant to RCW 28A.405. An appeal relating to the Educator's statutory hearing is currently pending before the Appellate Court.

3. On January 22, 2019, the Office of Professional Practices ("OPP") within the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction ("OSPI") received a complaint from Ben Small, the Superintendent of the School District, alleging that the Educator has committed unprofessional conduct pursuant to WAC 181-87 for School District allegations that the Educator falsified information to OPP in previous investigations, falsified information on his initial application for certification and that OPP incorrectly determined student testimony was not credible in previous investigations.

4. On May 15, 2009, OPP received a complaint from Ben Small, the Superintendent of the School District, alleging that the Educator has committed unprofessional conduct pursuant to WAC 181-87 alleging that the Educator had inappropriately touched a student and showed signs of intoxication at school.

5. On May 25, 2011, OPP dismissed the complaint for lack of sufficient evidence to show a violation of WAC chapter 181-87.

6. On February 16, 2012 OPP received a complaint from Ben Small, the Superintendent of the School District, alleging that the Educator had committed unprofessional conduct pursuant to WAC 181-87 by "conducting himself in a manner unbecoming a teacher that includes several alcohol/substance abuse related incidents and being unavailable for work".

7. On March 7, 2013, OPP dismissed the complaint for lack of sufficient evidence to show a violation of WAC chapter 181-87 or WAC 181-86-013, -014.

8. In, at least, 2013, the Educator, whose property abutted Manito Golf Course, trespassed onto golf course property, and interfered with Manito Golf Course employees while they were performing their job duties.

9. On May 21, 2014, an Order and Judgment Granting Permanent Injunction Against Michael F. Cronin was filed in Spokane County Superior Court. The Order and Judgment was an agreement between the Educator and Manito Golf and Country Club permanently restraining the Educator from entering Manito Golf Course property and from making “uninvited acts that interfere with the members, guests, and employees of Manito while they are on Manito property”.

10. On August 8, 2020, the Educator, after purchasing items from a Super 1 grocery store, requested the 16-year-old female employee to carry his items to his vehicle. It was alleged that while in the parking lot, the Educator, who was under the influence of alcohol, made inappropriate comments to the female, pulled down her face mask, blocked her attempt to walk away from him, and touched her breast.

11. On August 28, 2020, after investigation by Spokane Police Department, a criminal Complaint was filed in Spokane Municipal Court, charging the Educator with two counts of Assault 4th Degree, Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 9A.44.030, with Sexual Motivation enhancements, and one count of Obstructing a Law Enforcement Officer, Spokane Municipal Ordinance No. C34041, Section 1.

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12. On May 19, 2021, the Educator plead guilty to one count of Assault 4th Degree, RCW 9A.44.030. The Educator was sentenced to:

- a) Forty-five (45) days confinement, which may be served through electronic detention with alcohol monitoring;
- b) Monitored Supervision for a period of twenty-four (24) months after confinement, with conditions of: commit no violations of law; not possess or consume any alcohol, marijuana, products containing THC, or non-prescribed controlled substances and use prescription drugs only as prescribed; obtain a chemical substance assessment or evaluation and complete any recommended treatment.

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 has exhibited a pattern of behavior that demonstrates a lack of good moral character and/or personal fitness, as defined in WAC 181-86-013(4), -014.

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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. 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 181-87-013, and WAC 181-86-014, the Educator's education certificate should be suspended for a behavioral problem which endangers the educational welfare or personal safety of students, teachers, or other colleagues within the educational setting.

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III. ORDER

THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered and agreed that the Washington Education Certificate, No. 391162E of MIKE CRONIN is **SUSPENDED**. The Educator may not request reinstatement of his education certificate for at least NINE (9) month from the effective date of this ORDER.

REINSTATEMENT of MIKE CRONIN's education certificate shall require:

- (1) The Educator must successfully complete a PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION which validates his ability to have unsupervised access to students in a school environment by a licensed psychologist/psychiatrist 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, 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;
- (4) The Educator shall sign a consent allowing the examining psychologist/psychiatrist to provide OPP a summary of the Educator's treatment and the results of his/her evaluation;
- (5) The Educator must successfully complete a SUBSTANCE ABUSE EVALUATION by a licensed substance abuse evaluation/treatment provider preapproved by OSPI;
- (6) The Educator shall provide written consent for OPP to release documents to the provider for purposes of completing the evaluation;
- (7) 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;
- (8) 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;
- (9) The Educator must submit a new application, including Character and Fitness Supplement, provided by OPP;
- (10) The Educator must complete a fingerprint-based criminal background check through both the Federal Bureau of Investigations and the Washington State Patrol;
- (11) The Educator, at time of application for reinstatement, shall provide documentation from Spokane Municipal Court or the Monitored Supervision office that he is in compliance with terms of supervision or has successfully completed the terms of supervision.
- (12) 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
- (13) The Educator shall assume all costs of complying with the requirements of this Order.

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 16th day of February, 2022.

CHRIS REYKDAL
Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Washington

Signed: Matthew A. Schultz
Chief Legal and Civil Rights Officer

Stipulated to and approved
For entry:

Signed: Mike Cronin, Respondent