



# SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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IN THE MATTER OF THE EDUCATION	)	
APPLICATION OF	)	OPP No. A20-02-053
	)	
	)	DENIAL ORDER
PETER NEWSTEAD	)	FOR CERTIFICATION
	)	

After receiving and investigating an application for Washington State Education Certificate, and based upon the facts available as of the date of this Order, the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), through his undersigned designee, institutes this proceeding and finds, as described below, that PETER NEWSTEAD (“Applicant”) lacks the “good moral character and personal fitness,” as defined in WAC 181-86-013, and does hereby DENY the application for certification based on the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

## I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On February 7, 2022, the Applicant, applied for a Washington education certificate; specifically a Substitute Teacher certificate.
  - a. On March 26, 2001, the Applicant was issued Education Certificate Number 385811E. That Certificate, an Initial Teacher certificate, expired on June 30, 2005.
  - b. On July 29, 2005, Education Certificate Number 385811E, an Initial Teacher certificate, was reissued and that certificate expired on June 30, 2009.
  - c. On August 18, 2009, Education Certificate Number 385811E, a Residency certificate, was reissued and that certificate expired on June 30, 2017.

2. From September 2000 to May 2004 the Applicant was employed at Cleveland High School within the Seattle School District.
3. In October of 2000, a sexual harassment complaint was filed by a female student against the Applicant. The student stated that the Applicant had:
  - a. After being instructed by an assistant principal not to, touched the female student more than once;
  - b. Given the student a test grade of 100% after the student had admitted to cheating;
  - c. On more than one occasion, invited the student to have lunch alone with him in his classroom;
  - d. On more than one occasion, asked her to babysit for him; and,
  - e. Showed a textbook picture of male genitalia to the student.
4. On November 2, 2000, the Applicant participated in an investigator interview, conducted by Seattle Public Schools. During the interview, the Applicant denied showing the textbook that included a picture of male genitalia to any student and stated he retained the 100% grade for the student because he was convinced she knew the material and had not used any material to cheat.
5. On November 6, 2000, the Applicant was issued a Written Warning by Gloria Morris, Seattle Public Schools Employee Relations, for showing a picture of male genitalia to a female student and showing favoritism to a student by allowing a passing grade to stand on a test the student admittedly cheated on.
6. On November 7, 2000, another female student filed an Incident Report concerning the Applicant. The report states that the Applicant made comments to female students along the lines that he knew they wanted him and he can't have them that way because he's married with a child and that the Applicant had grabbed a female student by the waist. The complaining student did not sign the Incident Report so the School District did not investigate the complaint further.

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7. On May 12, 2004, the Applicant was issued a Written Reprimand by William R. Bleakney, Executive Director of Human Resources for Seattle Public Schools, for inappropriate racial comments to students and treating students differently because of their ethnic background. As part of the Reprimand, the Applicant was directed to undergo additional training to understand how to interact appropriately with a diverse student population.
8. On June 10, 2004, Seattle Public Schools transferred the Applicant from Cleveland High School to Ballard High School as a substitute teacher for the remainder of the 2003-2004 school year.
9. The Applicant was employed at Franklin High School within the Seattle Public Schools from the 2004-2005 school year until March 1, 2014.
10. In April 2009, the Applicant was disciplined for pushing a student and was also required to take additional training.
11. On December 8, 2011, the Applicant participated in an investigatory meeting concerning allegations of inappropriate touching of students. One specific incident concerned the Applicant turning off the classroom lights and squeezing a student on the shoulder. The Applicant specifically denied touching the student, stated that he never touched students in any manner, and postulated that the students were complaining because they weren't doing well in his class.
12. On January 12, 2012, after an investigation into allegations from students of multiple incidents of inappropriate touching by the Applicant, the Applicant was issued a Written Reprimand by Paul Apostle, Executive Director of Human Resources.
13. On September 18, 2012, the Applicant told a female student that she had "amazing curves", remarked that she was "so skinny" and "curvy".
14. On September 19, 2012, the Applicant was placed on administrative leaving pending investigation into the complaint of inappropriate interactions with a female student.

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15. On September 21, 2012, the Applicant submitted an emailed statement concerning the allegations. In the statement, the Applicant says that he did not make a comment about the female student being skinny but made a pun of her name by comparing it to the country of Hungary.

16. On January 7, 2013, the Applicant was issued a Notice of Probable Cause to Terminate by the Seattle Public Schools.

17. On October 9, 2013, the Applicant signed a "Settlement Agreement and Release". Per the agreement, the Applicant resigned his employment with Seattle Public Schools, effective March 1, 2014. The Applicant also agreed not to apply for employment with Seattle Public Schools in the future and Seattle Public Schools would not consider him for future employment. The applicant remained on administrative leave until the effective date of resignation.

18. On the Character and Fitness Supplement from his February 7, 2020 Application for Substitute Certificate, the Applicant answered 'Yes' to the question of "Have you ever resigned from or otherwise left any employment (e.g. settlement agreement) while allegations of misconduct were pending?" The Applicant provided an explanation of "Inaccurately accused and resigned in frustration.". The Applicant failed to disclose that he had been issued a Notice of Probable Cause for Termination and resigned pursuant to a Settlement Agreement.

19. On the Character and Fitness Supplement from his February 7, 2020 Application for Substitute Certificate, the Applicant answered 'Yes' to the question of "Have you ever been disciplined by a past or present employer because of allegations of misconduct?" The Applicant provided an explanation of "Administrative leave." The Applicant intentionally failed to disclose disciplinary actions issued to him by the Seattle Public Schools.

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20. On the Character and Fitness Supplement from his February 7, 2020 Application for Substitute Certificate, the Applicant falsely answered ‘No’ to the question of “Are you currently or have you ever been the subject of any investigation or inquiry by an employer because of allegations of misconduct?”

## **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, deny issuance, 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 Applicant and the subject matter of this action.

3. The Applicant has failed to provide clear and convincing evidence of his good moral character and personal fitness, under WAC 181-86-013 and WAC 181-86-170.

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### **III. ORDER**

THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that the application for a Washington Education Certificate is **DENIED**.

DATED this 2nd day of June, 2022.

CHRIS REYKDAL  
Superintendent of Public Instruction  
State of Washington

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