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# SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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IN THE MATTER OF THE EDUCATION )  
CERTIFICATE OF )

OPP No. D19-05-048

ARON WATTS )  
Certificate No. 345432R )

FINAL ORDER  
OF REVOCATION

After receiving and investigating a complaint from Spokane Public Schools (“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 Aron Watts (“Educator”) lacks good moral character and/or personal fitness pursuant to Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 181-86-013 and WAC 181-86-014, and does hereby REVOKE the Educator’s Washington Education Certificate No. 345432R based on the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

## I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On June 10, 1996, the Educator was issued Washington Education Certificate No. 345432R. The Educator’s certificate is a non-expiring residency admin certificate.
2. During the 2018–2019 school year, the Educator was employed by the School District at Linwood Elementary School as a .50 Principal Assistant and at Woodridge Elementary School as a .50 Principal Assistant.

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3. On May 17, 2019, the Office of Professional Practices (“OPP”) within the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (“OSPI”) received a complaint from Dr. Shelley Redinger, the Superintendent of Spokane Public Schools, alleging the Educator may have committed an act or acts of unprofessional conduct.

4. From approximately January to May 2019, the Educator shared sexually explicit texts, images, and videos with an individual the Educator believed was a 15-year-old female.

5. At some point, the individual told him to make her an “offer” or she would report him.

6. The Educator received additional text messages from someone claiming to be the individual’s mother, threatening to report him to officials. When asked to disclose his name to the individual’s mother, the Educator provided his full name.

7. Shortly thereafter, the Educator disclosed his conduct to the school’s assistant principal, his pastor, and his wife.

8. The Educator’s church pastor allegedly advised him to report himself and resign from his employment with the School District.

9. On May 7, 2019, the Educator reported his actions to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC).

10. On May 14, 2019, a Spokane County Sheriff’s Office detective was assigned to investigate the NCMEC disclosure.

11. Law enforcement was unable to verify the identity of the person the Educator was communicating with; therefore, no criminal charges were pursued.

12. Since the disclosure, the Educator has undergone two psychosexual evaluations as part of divorce proceedings.

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13. In June 2019, the Educator participated in a psychosexual evaluation as part of divorce proceedings. During the interviews with the evaluator, the Educator disclosed he had been communicating with a person he believed to be a 15-year-old female and exchanged nude photos with her. The Educator also disclosed that he masturbated to the images of the 15-year-old female and had fantasies of the 15-year-old female. The Educator told the evaluator “he needs help because he is not able to control his sexual behavior.” The testing results showed the Educator has “rather limited sexual interest in adult females.” The Educator also disclosed to the evaluator that he had masturbated at school.

14. On August 30, 2019, the evaluator completed the assessment and issued a report. In his report, the evaluator concluded the Educator needs treatment and “more information may be needed about Mr. Watts’ sexual acting out behavior and he may be more attracted to adolescent females than he reports.”

15. In June of 2020, the Educator completed another psychosexual evaluation as part of divorce proceedings. The evaluator determined he was not a sexual threat to his own minor children; however, the evaluator did not make any conclusions regarding whether the Educator was a threat to minors in general.

## **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(2); 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. Pursuant to WAC 181-86-170, WAC 181-86-013 and WAC 181-86-014, there is clear and convincing evidence the Educator lacks the good moral character and/or personal fitness necessary to serve as a certificated employee in schools in the state of Washington, including the character and personal fitness to have contact with, to teach, and supervise students.
4. 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.
5. 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 181-86-170, WAC 181-86-013 and WAC 181-86-014, the Educator's education certificate should be revoked for lack of good moral character and/or personal fitness.

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### **III. ORDER**

THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that the Washington Education Certificate No. 345432R of ARON WATTS is **REVOKED**.

DATED this 26th day of January, 2022.

CHRIS REYKDAL  
Superintendent of Public Instruction  
State of Washington

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