



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Chris Reykdal Old Capitol Building · PO BOX 47200 · Olympia, WA 98504-7200 · <http://www.k12.wa.us>

RE: Carla Cummings
OSPI Case Number: D12-05-033
Document: Order of Suspension

Regarding your request for information about the above-named educator; attached is a true and correct copy of the document on file with the State of Washington, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Office of Professional Practices. These records are considered certified by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Certain information may have been redacted pursuant to Washington state laws. While those laws require that most records be disclosed on request, they also state that certain information should not be disclosed.

The following information has been withheld: **None**

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding the information that was redacted, if any, please contact:

OSPI Public Records Office
P.O. Box 47200
Olympia, WA 98504-7200
Phone: (360) 725-6372
Email: PublicRecordsRequest@k12.wa.us

You may appeal the decision to withhold or redact any information by writing to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, OSPI P.O. Box 47200, Olympia, WA 98504-7200.



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IN THE MATTER OF THE EDUCATION)
CERTIFICATE OF)

OPP No. D12-05-033

CARLA CUMMINGS)
Certificate No. 432721R)

FINAL ORDER
OF SUSPENSION

COMES NOW the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), under the authority granted by the laws of the state of Washington, having reviewed the file of the above-referenced case, and having considered the entire evidence contained therein, does hereby suspend the Washington Education Certificate No. 432721R, of Carla Cummings for thirty six (36) months based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth below:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Carla Cummings was issued a Washington Education Certificate, No. 432721R, on January 4, 2006. That certificate currently remains valid.

2. Carla Cummings was employed by the Chrysalis School, an OSPI approved private school.

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3. On May 2, 2012, the Office of Professional Practices, within OSPI, received a complaint letter from Dr. Monte L. Bridges, superintendent of the Puget Sound Educational Service District, alleging a lack of good moral character or personal fitness, or a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct, Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 181-87, by Carla Cummings.

4. During the 2011-2012 school year, Carla Cummings had inappropriate communications with Z.M., a 17 year old male student. Between March 4, 2012 and April 4, 2012, Carla Cummings exchanged over 300 text messages with Z.M. The vast majority of the communications were in the evening and night hours with the latest after midnight.

5. A portion of the communications were concerning school work but they also included inappropriate communications such as, but not limited to, “Might be fun to just get a room sometime, hang out, watch a movie, and talk without concerns. No pressure for anything. What do you think?” and “Sooooo (sic) do you like heels or do you prefer me in flats? Heels just seem sexier...?”

6. The communications with Z. M. were in violation with Chrysalis School policy regarding Employee/Client Social Contact, located on page 79 in the Employee manual, and the school’s Sexual Harassment Policy.

7. On April 19, 2012, attorneys for Chrysalis School attempted contact with Carla Cummings for the second time advising her if she did not respond by April 23, 2012, they would consider her as “resigned”.

8. On April 30, 2012, King County Sheriff's Department initiated an investigation regarding the inappropriate texts and emails by Carla Cummings to Z.M., a male 17 year old special needs high school student. King County Sheriff's Department Case No. 12-100115.
9. On May 21, 2012, King County Sheriff's Department closed the investigation involving Carla Cummings, citing that the parents of Z.M. did not wish to make a formal complaint.
10. OPP attempted contact with Carla Cummings, on more than one occasion, by phone, mail, and certified mail to provide her an opportunity to respond to allegations of misconduct, as per Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 28A.410.090. As of January 7, 2013, OPP has not received contact from Carla Cummings.
11. Good moral character and personal fitness is a continuing requirement to maintain a Washington Education Certificate.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. OSPI has jurisdiction over Carla Cummings and over the subject matter of this action.
2. OSPI has shown by clear and convincing evidence that the Washington Education Certificate No. 432721R, of Carla Cummings, should be suspended for unprofessional conduct and/or lack of good moral character or personal fitness. RCW 28A.410.090, WAC 181-86-060, WAC 181-87-080, WAC 181-86-013, WAC 181-86-014, WAC181-87-060.

ORDER

THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that the Washington Education Certificate, No. 432721R, of Carla Cummings be suspended for thirty six (36) months.

REINSTATEMENT will require: (1) successful completion of a psychological evaluation which validates Carla Cummings' ability to have unsupervised access to students in a school environment, by an evaluator mutually agreed upon by the Office of Professional Practices and Carla Cummings; (2) that Carla Cummings provide written consent for OPP to release documents to the provider for purposes of completing the evaluation; (3) that Carla Cummings follows and completes any and all treatment recommended in the evaluation; (4) that Carla Cummings will provide OPP with evidence of her successful completion of or continued compliance in her treatment program and; (5) if requested, Carla Cummings will sign consent forms authorizing OPP to have access to all records pertaining to his/her treatment and to discuss any and all treatment undertaken with the providers administering treatment. The cost of conformance to all reinstatement requirements will be the responsibility of Carla Cummings.

AND Reinstatement shall also require submission of a new application, including Character and Fitness Supplement, provided by OPP, and having Carla Cummings' fingerprints be checked by both the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Washington State Patrol (WSP). Reinstatement shall also be contingent upon Carla Cummings' fingerprint background check returning with no criminal convictions that are listed in WAC 181-86-013, RCW 28A.410.090, any felony convictions.

DATED This 13th day of June, 2013.

RANDY I. DORN
Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Washington

Signed: Alan Burke, Ed. D
Deputy Superintendent
K-12 Education