



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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

RE: Carmela Morelli
OSPI Case Number: D09-12-080
Document: 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.

I, Nichole Andersen, certify that on November 24, 2010, I mailed a copy of this document, certified & postage prepaid, to all parties or their counsel of record. I certify under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the state of Washington, that the foregoing is true and correct.

IN THE MATTER OF THE EDUCATION)
CERTIFICATE OF)
)
CARMELA MORELLI)
Certificate No. 340696D)
_____)

OPP No.D09-12-080

FINAL ORDER OF
SUSPENSION

COMES NOW Gene Sharratt, Review Officer of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), having reviewed the files of the above-referenced case, and having considered the arguments of each party and the recommendation of the Admissions and Professional Conduct Advisory Committee, does hereby order that the Washington Education Certificate, No. _____, of Carmela Morelli be suspended for two (2) months based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth below:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Carmela Morelli was issued a Washington Education Certificate, No. 340696D, on August 24, 1995. That certificate currently remains valid.
2. Carmela Morelli is employed by the Edmonds School District.
3. On December 9, 2009, the Office of Professional Practices, within OSPI, received a complaint letter from the superintendent of the Edmonds School 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 Carmela Morelli.

4. During the 2008-2009 school year, Carmela Morelli brought a book containing nude images of male genitalia to Lynnwood High School.

5. With Carmela Morelli present, Lynnwood High School staff members observed the book and images in Carmela Morelli's office.

6. On September 23, 2009, Carmela Morelli received an e-mail with attachments of images of partially clothed and seemingly unclothed males.

7. On September 23, 2009, Carmela Morelli forwarded the e-mail and attachments to William Moliter, a Lynnwood High School teacher.

8. On September 25, 2009, Carmela Morelli was placed on administrative leave.

9. During an October 2, 2009 meeting with Edmond School District personnel, Carmela Morelli said, among other comments, that she had shown the book containing nude images of male genitalia to William Molitor and that she decided to remove the book when a counselor saw the book and wanted to show it to a friend.

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10. On October 7, 2009, Carmela Morelli participated in an investigatory meeting with Edmonds School District personnel. During the meeting, among other comments, Carmela Morelli said: that the book, containing nude images of male genitalia, was in her office for most likely longer than a day; when asked why she wouldn't have taken the book home at the end of the day, she replied that she didn't have a good explanation; and when informed that an office staff member knew about the book and asked her if anyone had questioned the book, Carmela Morelli said that no one said they were uncomfortable with seeing the book.

11. On November 6, 2009, Carmela Morelli participated in an investigatory meeting with Edmonds School District personnel.

12. A forensic examination of Carmela Morelli's school district assigned laptop computer located images displaying sexually explicit conduct.

13. On December 1, 2009, Carmela Morelli signed a Settlement Agreement with the Edmonds School District. Per the Settlement Agreement, Carmela Morelli resigned her employment as an assistant principal, effective June 30, 2010.

14. On March 30, 2010, Carmella Morelli's son, J.M., participated in an interview with an OPP investigator. J.M. stated that he had used his mother's Edmonds School District computer to access and view images displaying sexually explicit conduct without Carmela Morelli's knowledge and/or permission. On April 14, 2010, OPP received J.M.'s signed statement.

15. During the interview with an OPP investigator on March 30, 2010, Carmela Morelli made falsified and/or misrepresented statements in response to questions. Carmela Morelli said, among other comments, that the book containing nude images of male genitalia was in her office for approximately one hour and that she had not intentionally shown the book to other Lynnwood High School staff members. On April 14, 2010, OPP received Carmella Morelli's signed statement.

15. Good moral character and personal fitness is a continuing requirement to maintain a Washington Education Certificate.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. OSPI has jurisdiction over Carmela Morelli and over the subject matter of this action.
2. OSPI has shown by clear and convincing evidence that the Washington Education Certificate, No.340696D of Carmela Morelli, should be suspended as provided for in WAC 181-86-070.
3. Carmal Morelli has violated RCW 28A.410.090, WAC 181-87-060, WAC 181-87-050, WAC 181-86-013, and/or WAC 181-86-014.

ORDER

THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that the Washington Education Certificate, No. 340696D, of Carmela Morelli be suspended for two (2) months.

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

This Order will become final thirty (30) calendar days from the date of receipt of this order unless respondent files an appeal for a formal hearing before the Office of Administrative Hearings. Please direct the appeal and request for formal hearing to Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Administrative Law Office, Old Capitol Building, P.O. Box 47200, Olympia, WA 98504-7200.

DATED this 24th day of November, 2010.

RANDY I. DORN
Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Washington

Signed: DR. GENE SHARRATT
Review Officer