



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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

RE: Matthew Snyder
OSPI Case Number: D15-04-030
Document: Final Order of Mandatory Permanent Revocation

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

Matthew Snyder
Certificate No. 457734B

OPP No. D15-04-030

FINAL ORDER OF
MANDATORY PERMANENT
REVOCATION

INTRODUCTION

After receiving and investigating a complaint from Seattle Public Schools regarding the above referenced educator, and based upon the facts available as of the date of this Final Order, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, through his undersigned designee, institutes this proceeding and finds, as described below, that Matthew Snyder engaged in acts of unprofessional conduct to include sexual misconduct with a student and felony criminal conviction for Attempted Assault 2nd Degree, RCW 9A.36.021.

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On September 3, 2008, Matthew Snyder, hereafter referred to as Mr. Snyder, was issued Washington Education Certificate, No. 457734B. That certificate expired on June 30, 2015.
2. During the first part of the 2014-2105 school year, Mr. Snyder a 2nd grade teacher and DRM (a 16 year old female high school student) exchanged text messages. The text conversations initially concerned DRM volunteering in Mr. Snyder's classroom as a graduation requirements. As the text progressed, Mr. Snyder sent inappropriate, sexual themed text messages to DRM. Specific examples of the inappropriate, sexual themed text messages include:

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- a. November 11, 2014: If the opportunity presented itself, would you tell the older gent about your crush and allow fate to unfold itself for you?
 - b. November 18, 2014: Tell you what, text the person who you think might be behind this by simply texting the word “Lolita” to him and if it’s them they’ll respond with “Nabokov” Try it. I dare you!
 - c. November 18, 2014: If I’m going to be your “daddy” I certainly hope that you’re able to keep this little charade our secret so your real daddy doesn’t find out whose been getting you all hot and bothered.
 - d. November 19, 2014: At what age do you regard a guy no longer being a young stud but instead a dirty old man?
 - e. November 19, 2014: On a scale of 1 to 10 (1=least 10=most) how would you rate yourself in terms of experience with a guy? Are you comfortable with that number or are you hoping that will change soon?
 - f. November 20, 2014: Contact with a minor for immoral purposes has a maximum of 10 years in prison. If I made any more of an effort at getting together with you, I might be looking at some hard time. A risk that you’ll have to initiated for me. Again, trust your instincts. Surprise yourself.
 - g. November 20, 2014: Oh the things I would love to show you how to do...
 - h. November 20, 2014: If this did happen would you be able to keep it on the down low? Discretion is paramount to make this work.
3. DRM researched the term “Lolita” and discovered that it was a story of a teacher who falls in love with a student, authored by Nabokov. This lead DRM to believe that the anonymous person posting on her Ask.fm profile was Mr. Snyder.
4. On November 22, 2014, DRM texted the word “Lolita” to Mr. Snyder and he responded with “Nabokov”. DRM told her parents what had happened and they called Seattle Police Department.
5. On November 21, 2014 a Law Enforcement Investigation and subsequent prosecution was initiated. Seattle Police Department incident Report No. 2014-391979; King County Superior Court Cause No. 14-1-06954-1.

- a. On December 14, 2014, Mr. Snyder was arrested and booked into King County Jail for criminal charges of Communication With A Minor For Immoral Purposes RCW 9.68.A.090(2)
 - b. On December 14, 2014, an Information and King County Custody Pre-Book/Probable Cause Sheet were filed in King County Superior Court charging Mr. Snyder with Communication with a Minor for Immoral Purposes.
 - c. On June 15, 2015, a Statement of Defendant on Plea of Guilty was filed in King County Superior Court for Cause No. 14-1-06954-1. In the statement, Mr. Snyder pled guilty to the offenses listed in the Amended Information and stated that between November 1, 2014 and November 22, 2014 with intent to commit the felony of Sexual Misconduct with a Minor in the First Degree did attempt to intentionally assault DMR.
 - d. On June 18, 2015, Mr. Snyder was found guilty by plea and sentenced.
6. Mr. Snyder, through his attorney, has been offered an opportunity to respond to the allegations of misconduct, as per RCW 28A.410.090. As of the date of this Order, Joseph Evans, Mr. Snyder's attorney, has declined to provide a response to participate in an interview with an OPP investigator.
7. Mr. Snyder has pleaded guilty or been convicted of a crime identified in Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 28A.410.090. Such a plea or conviction authorizes OSPI to permanently revoke the Education Certificate.

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, suspend, and revoke education certificates. RCW 28A.410.090. WAC 181-86 and WAC 181-87 further implement OPSI's authority.
2. OSPI has jurisdiction over Mr. Snyder and the subject matter discussed herein.

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3. Mr. Snyder committed an act of unprofessional conduct: WAC 181-87-080 (Sexual Misconduct with a Student); WAC 181-86-060(1) (Disregard or Abandonment of Generally Recognized Professional Standards) and RCW 28A.410.090.

4. There is clear and convincing evidence that Mr. Snyder committed an act of unprofessional conduct. WAC 181-86-170 (Burden of Proof).

5. Pursuant to WAC 181-86-080 eleven factors 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 181-86-075(Grounds for Issuance of a Revocation Order), RCW 28A.410.090(4)(c), WAC 181-87-080 (Sexual Misconduct with a Student); WAC 181-87-060(1) (Disregard or Abandonment of Generally Recognized Professional Standards), the Washington Education Certificate held by Mr. Snyder, No. 457734B, should be permanently revoked for unprofessional conduct and a felony sex offense conviction.

III. ORDER

Therefore, it is hereby ordered that the Washington Education Certificate, No. 457734B, of Mr. Snyder is permanently revoked.

DATED This 18th day of March, 2016.

RANDY I. DORN
Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Washington

Signed: Dierk Meierbachtol
Chief Legal Officer
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction