



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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

RE: Celah Wales
OSPI Case Number: D15-06-043
Document: Agreed 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. D15-06-043

CELAH WALES)
Certificate No. 456164C)
_____)

AGREED ORDER
OF SUSPENSION

INTRODUCTION

After receiving and investigating a complaint from Yakima Public Schools regarding the above referenced educator, and based upon the facts available as of the date of this Agreed Order, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, through his undersigned designee, does hereby stipulate, by and between the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), the Office of Professional Practices and Celah Wales, that the Washington Education Certificate No. 456164C, of Celah Wales, shall be suspended based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth below:

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On July 21, 2008, Celah Wales, hereafter referred to as Ms. Wales, was issued Washington Education Certificate, No. 456164C. That certificate currently remains valid. Ms. Wales taught special education in the Yakima School District. She received positive evaluations and did not have any school-related discipline.

2. Ms. Wales suffered from a history of Depressive Disorder and Bipolar Disorder. She was not getting adequate treatment for her mental health issues in February 2015.

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3. On February 28, 2015, Ms. Wales attempted to introduce narcotics into the Coyote Ridge Correctional Center for M.C., a male prisoner she was visiting; Connell Police Department Case No. 15-00549.

a. On April 3, 2015, an Information was filed in Franklin County Superior Court, charging Ms. Wales with the crime of: Unlawful Delivery of a Controlled Substance, Clonazepam, (RCW 69.50.401(1) and (2)(a), A Class B Felony; Franklin County Superior Court Case No. 15-1-50149-5.

b. On June 4, 2015, a First Amended Information was filed in Franklin County Superior Court, charging Ms. Wales with the crime of; Unlawful Delivery of a Controlled Substance, Clonazepam, (RCW 69.50.401(1) and (2)(d), A Class C Felony; Franklin County Superior Court Case o. 15-1-50149-5.

c. On January 29, 2016, a Second Amended Information was filed in Franklin County Superior Court, charging Ms. Wales with the crime of; Conspiracy, (RCW 9A.28.040(1) and (3)(c), a Class C Felony; Franklin County Superior Court Case No. 15-1-50149-5.

d. On February 2, 2016, a Statement of Defendant on Plea of Guilty to Non-Sex Offense and a Judgment and Sentence were filed in Franklin County Superior Court. Franklin County Superior Court Case No. 15-1-50149-5.

4. Ms. Wales' thinking, judgment and decision-making were substantially and seriously compromised by her Bi-Polar Disorder with cycling features, and likely hypomanic symptoms she was suffering at the time of the incident at Coyote Ridge incident. Her mental health disorder has never compromised her ability to perform her duties as a teacher.

5. On March 4, 2015, Ms. Wales was placed on paid administrative leave by Kelly Garza, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources.

6. On October 26, 2015, Ms. Wales entered into a Settlement Agreement with Yakima Public Schools under which she resigned her employment with the District. She recognizes her mistake in not ensuring she was being properly treated for her mental health issues and is committed to pursuing adequate treatment.

7. On May 6, 2016, Ms. Wales interviewed with an OPP investigator.

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. (RCW 28A.410.090) WAC 181-86 and WAC 181-87 further implement OPSI's authority.
2. OSPI has jurisdiction over Ms. Wales and the subject matter discussed herein.
3. Ms. Wales committed acts of unprofessional conduct pursuant to WAC 181-86-013 and WAC 181-86-014.
4. There is clear and convincing evidence that Ms. Wales committed unprofessional conduct. WAC 181-86-170 (Burden and Standard 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.

6. 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 (Grounds for Issuance of an Order of Suspension), WAC 181-86-013 and WAC 181-86-014, Ms. Wales' education certificate should be suspended for unprofessional conduct.

III. ORDER

THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered and agreed that the Washington Education Certificate, No. 456164C, of Ms. Wales be suspended for twelve (12) months, and that:

REINSTATEMENT of Ms. Wales' education certificate shall require: (1) At the time of reinstatement a letter from Ms. Wales' health care provider showing that Ms. Wales is in compliance with her recommended medical treatment, and (2) submission of a new application, including Character and Fitness Supplement, provided by OPP and having Ms. Wales' fingerprints be checked by both the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Washington State Patrol (WSP); and (3) that if Ms. Wales' education certificate expires during the period of suspension, Ms. Wales will show that she meets all academic requirements for renewal/reinstatement of the education certificate. Reinstatement shall also be contingent upon Ms. Wales' fingerprint background check returning with no criminal convictions, occurring after the date of issuance of a Final Order of Suspension, that are listed in WAC 181-86-013, RCW 28A.410.090, or any felony convictions. The cost of conformance to all reinstatement requirements will be the responsibility of Ms. Wales.

DATED This 15th day of June, 2016.

RANDY I. DORN
Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Washington

Stipulated to and approved
For entry:

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

Signed: Celah Wales, Respondent

Signed: Kevan Montoya, Attorney for Respondent
WSBA #19212

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