



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

RANDY I. DORN OLD CAPITOL BUILDING • PO BOX 47200 • OLYMPIA WA 98504-7200 • <http://www.k12.wa.us>

IN THE MATTER OF THE EDUCATION)	
CERTIFICATE OF)	OPP No. D12-06-041
)	
JENNIFER TACHIYAMA)	FINAL ORDER
Certificate No. 395155E)	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. 395155E, of Jennifer Tachiyama for six (6) months based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth below:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Jennifer Tachiyama was issued a Washington Education Certificate, No. 395155E, on February 7, 2002. That certificate currently remains valid.

2. Jennifer Tachiyama was employed by the St. Paul's Academy.

3. On June 4, 2012, the Office of Professional Practices, within OSPI, received a complaint letter from Stephanie Sadler, Head of St. Paul's Academy, 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 Jennifer Tachiyama.

4. On August 23, 2002, Jennifer Tachiyama was awarded a Master's of Education Degree from Western Washington University.

5. From August 23, 2002 to September 13, 2005, Jennifer Tachiyama accumulated 47.4 additional scholastic hours through additional university credits, district sponsored training and accredited clock hours.

6. On November 15, 2006, OPP, based on a complaint letter from the Blaine School District, initiated an investigation into allegations of professional misconduct and/or a lack of good moral character or personal fitness. OPP #D06-11-087

7. On March 17, 2008, Jennifer Tachiyama entered into a Teacher Employment Agreement with St. Paul's Academy as a 1.0 FTE Math Teacher for the 2008-2009 school year. Under the section titled, "Compensation", Jennifer Tachiyama's salary was based on 5 years of experience and a Master's Degree.

8. That employment contract was voided by Stephanie Sadler and Jennifer Tachiyama to award a new salary based on credits to the equivalent of a Master's Degree plus 45 credits. The amended Teacher Employment Agreement was signed by both Stephanie Sadler and Jennifer Tachiyama on March 21, 2008.

9. In or about the fall of 2008, Jennifer Tachiyama returned to Western Washington University for a 3 credit course. From January 1, 2009 to date, Jennifer Tachiyama has not earned any further academic credits.

10. On April 22, 2009, Jennifer Tachiyama entered into a Teacher Employment Agreement with St. Paul's Academy as 1.0 FTE Math Teacher for the 2009-2010 school year. Under the section titled, "Compensation", Jennifer Tachiyama's salary was based on 6 years of teaching experience and a Master's Degree plus 45 credits. The contract was signed by both Jennifer Tachiyama and Stephanie Sadler on April 22, 2009.

11. On September 25, 2009, OPP issued Jennifer Tachiyama an Agreed Order of Reprimand. The Agreed Order of Reprimand was based, in part, on Jennifer Tachiyama's falsification of her application for employment with St. Paul's Academy. During the investigation, Stephanie Sadler was made aware of the application for employment falsification. OPP #D06-11-087

12. On April 12, 2010, Jennifer Tachiyama entered into a Teacher Employment Agreement with St. Paul's Academy as 1.0 FTE Math Teacher for the 2010-2011 school year. Under the section titled, "Compensation", Jennifer Tachiyama's salary was based on 7 years teaching experience and her credits were reported to be a Master's Degree plus 90 credits. The contract was signed by both Stephanie Sadler and Jennifer Tachiyama on April, 14, 2010.

13. Due to the falsification of scholastic credits, Jennifer Tachiyama was overpaid \$1900.00 for 2010-2011 school year.

14. On or about January, 2011, while employed at St. Paul's Academy, Jennifer Tachiyama completed and signed a school form called, "Faculty Intentions and Salary Placement" for the 2011-2012 school year. On that form, Jennifer Tachiyama falsely claimed to have a Master's Degree (MA) plus 90 credits.

15. On April 12, 2011, Jennifer Tachiyama entered into a Teacher Employment Agreement with St. Paul's Academy for a 1.0 FTE Teacher for the 2011-2012 school year. Under the section titled, "Compensation", Jennifer Tachiyama's salary was based on 8 years of teaching experience and her credits were reported to be a Master's Degree plus 90 credits. The contract was signed by both Stephanie Sadler and Jennifer Tachiyama on April 20, 2011.

16. Due to the falsification of scholastic credits, Jennifer Tachiyama was overpaid \$1968.00 for 2011-2012 school year.

17. On or about February, 2012, while employed at St. Paul's Academy, Jennifer Tachiyama filled out and signed a school form called, "Faculty Intentions and Salary Placement" for the 2012-2013 school year. On that form, Jennifer Tachiyama claimed to have a Master's Degree (MA) plus 90 credits, which allowed her to be placed at a higher pay schedule.

18. On or about the 2011-2012 school year, Jennifer Tachiyama was assigned the duty of managing the ASB funds for St. Paul's Academy.

19. During the 2011-2012 school year, Jennifer Tachiyama failed to properly receipt and securely store monies from the April 23, 2012 school dance causing the loss of approximately \$137.67.

20. On or about March, 2012, in a meeting with Stephanie Sadler, Jennifer Tachiyama agreed to pay back the overpayment for the 2011-2012 in the amount of \$1968.00.

21. On May 3, 2012, Jennifer Tachiyama received a termination letter from Stephanie Sadler, Head of School, at St. Paul's Academy.

22. On August 2, 2012, Jennifer Tachiyama submitted a statement to OPP.

23. On June 10, 2014, Jennifer Tachiyama interviewed by phone with an OPP investigator, however declined the opportunity to be recorded.

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

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CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. OSPI has jurisdiction over Jennifer Tachiyama and over the subject matter of this action.

2. OSPI has shown by clear and convincing evidence that the Washington Education Certificate No. 395155E, of Jennifer Tachiyama, should be suspended for unprofessional conduct and/or lack of good moral character or personal fitness. RCW 28A.410.090, WAC 181-86-070, WAC 181-87-060, WAC 181-87-050

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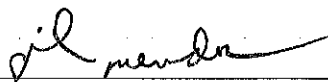
ORDER

THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that the Washington Education Certificate, No. 395155E, of Jennifer Tachiyama be suspended for six (6) months.

Reinstatement shall require: (1) submission of a new application, including Character and Fitness Supplement, provided by OPP and having Jennifer Tachiyama's fingerprints be checked by both the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Washington State Patrol (WSP); and (2) that if Jennifer Tachiyama's education certificate expires during the period of suspension, Jennifer Tachiyama will show that she meets all academic requirements for renewal/reinstatement of the education certificate. Reinstatement shall also be contingent upon Jennifer Tachiyama's 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 17th day of September, 2014.

RANDY I. DORN
Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Washington



Gil Mendoza, Ed. D
Deputy Superintendent
K-12 Education