



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

DR. TERRY BERGESON 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. D05-06-075
)	
Nelson Hanton)	ORDER OF PERMANENT
Certificate No. 262417R)	REVOCATION
)	

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 permanently revoke the Washington Education Certificate, No. 262417R, of Nelson Hanton, based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth below:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Nelson Hanton was issued a Washington Education Certificate, No. 262417R, on September 17, 1984. That certificate currently remains valid.
2. Nelson Hanton was employed by the Tacoma Public Schools.
3. On June 23, 2005, the Office of Professional Practices (OPP), within OSPI, received a complaint letter alleging a lack of good moral character or personal fitness, or a violation of the

Code of Professional Conduct, Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 180-87, by Nelson Hanton.

4. During the 2004-2005 school year, Mr. Hanton engaged in sexual activity, with a 14-year old female student at Mason Middle School.

5. Mr. Hanton was arrested by Tacoma Police Department detectives and booked into the Pierce County Jail on June 10, 2005 at 4:00 PM. Mr. Hanton was released from the Pierce County Jail on June 10, 2005 at 9:45 PM. After being released from the Pierce County Jail, Mr. Hanton returned to Mason Middle School and removed items of evidentiary value for the criminal investigation.

6. On June 13, 2005, Mr. Hanton was arrested by Tacoma Police Department detectives and booked into the Pierce County Jail.

7. On June 14, 2005, an Information and Declaration for Determination of Probable Cause were filed in Pierce County Superior Court, Cause Number 05-1-02946-5, charging Mr. Hanton with: 3 counts of Rape of a Child in the Third Degree, RCW 9A.44.079; 1 count of Child Molestation in the Third Degree, RCW 9A.44.089; 1 count of Burglary in the Second Degree, RCW 9A.52.030; and 1 count of Tampering with Physical Evidence – Destroy Evidence, RCW 9A.72.0150.

8. Mr. Hanton resigned from the Tacoma Public Schools on July 25, 2005.

9. On February 2, 2006, an Amended Information was filed in Pierce County Superior Court charging Mr. Hanton with: 3 counts of Rape of a Child in the Third Degree, RCW 9A.44.079; 1 count of Child Molestation in the Third Degree, RCW 9A.44.089; and 1 count of Tampering with Physical Evidence – Destroy Evidence, RCW 9A.72.0150.

10. On February 2, 2006, Mr. Hanton signed a Statement of Defendant on Plea of Guilty, in which he pleaded guilty to the charges listed in the Amended Information.

11. On March 24, 2006, Mr. Hanton was sentenced to: \$710 total court costs; restitution, to be determined later; forfeit his teaching certificate; total confinement of 60 months, with 55 months suspended; undergo and successfully complete outpatient sex offender treatment program with Traywick, Green, Arnholt & Associates; sex offender registration; DNA testing; No contact with minors, excluding his own minor children; quarterly polygraphs required during treatment; and other conditions.

12. Nelson Hanton has pleaded guilty or been convicted of a crime identified in Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 28A.410.090(3). Such a plea or conviction authorizes OSPI to permanently revoke the Education Certificate.

13. 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 Nelson Hanton and over the subject matter of this action.

2. OSPI has shown by clear and convincing evidence that the Washington Education Certificate, No. 262417R, of Nelson Hanton, should be revoked, as provided for in WAC 180-86-075.

3. Nelson Hanton has violated WAC 180-87-080, WAC 180-86-013, WAC 180-86-014, and/or RCW 28A.410.090.

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ORDER

Therefore, it is hereby ordered that the Washington Education Certificate, No. 262417R, of Nelson Hanton be permanently revoked.

This order will become final thirty days after it is received, unless it is appealed within the thirty day period.

Appeals should be addressed to:

Superintendent of Public Instruction

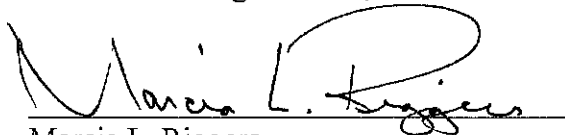
Office of Professional Practices

PO Box 47200

Olympia, WA 98504

DATED This 31st day of March, 2006.

DR. TERRY BERGESON
Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Washington



Marcia L. Riggers
Assistant Superintendent
Student Support and Operations