



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. D07-12-118
)	
RICHARD BALLOU)	FINAL ORDER
Certificate No. 345338H)	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. 345338H, of Richard Ballou for twelve (12) months based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth below:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Richard Ballou was issued a Washington Education Certificate, No. 345338H, on May 31, 1996. That certificate currently remains valid.
2. Richard Ballou was employed by the Bremerton School District.
3. On December 6, 2007, the Office of Professional Practices, within OSPI, received a complaint letter from the superintendent of the Bremerton 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 Richard Ballou.

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4. On September 1, 2004, Mr. Ballou signed the Staff Informed Consent Form; stating that he had read the Bremerton School District Acceptable use Policy.

5. During the fall of the 2007 school year, Mr. Ballou used Bremerton School District computer equipment to access and view sexually explicit images and videos.

6. On November 15, 2007, a 17 year old female high school student, J.S., walked into Mr. Ballou's room and observed him viewing sexual images of a nude male and female performing a sexual act.

7. On November 19, 2007 Richard Ballou was placed on Administrative Leave.

8. In a letter dated November 30, 2007 Richard Ballou resigned effective January 3, 2008.

9. On February 19, 2008, a letter was sent to the last known address for Mr. Ballou advising him of his opportunity to respond to allegations of misconduct. In the letter, Mr. Ballou was asked to contact OPP by March 5, 2008. Mr. Ballou did not respond to this letter.

10. 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 Richard Ballou and over the subject matter of this action.

2. OSPI has shown by clear and convincing evidence that the Washington Education Certificate, No. 345338H, of Richard Ballou, should be suspended as provided for in WAC 181-86-070.

3. Richard Ballou has violated WAC 181-87, RCW 28A.410.090, and/or WAC 181-86-014.

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ORDER

It has been thirty days since the Proposed Order of Suspension was received. The appeal time period has passed. It is hereby ordered that the Washington Education Certificate, No. 345338H, of Richard Ballou is Suspended.

DATED This 16th day of July, 2008.

DR. TERRY BERGESON
Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Washington



Martin T. Mueller
Assistant Superintendent
Student Support