

IN THE MATTER OF THE EDUCATION)	
CERTIFICATE OF)	OPP No. D04-05-035
)	
Gail Dickerman)	AGREED
Certificate No. 173270J)	ORDER OF SUSPENSION
_____)	

COMES NOW the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, 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 stipulate by and between the Office of Professional Practices (OPP), Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), and Gail Dickerman, that the Washington Education Certificate, No. 173270J, of Gail Dickerman, shall be suspended for thirty (30) days, based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth below:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Gail Dickerman was issued a Washington Education Certificate, No. 173270J, on March 17, 1970. That certificate currently remains valid.

2. Gail Dickerman is employed by the Tumwater School District.

3. On May 10, 2004, the Office of Professional Practices, within OSPI, received a complaint letter from the superintendent of the Tumwater 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) 180-87, by Gail Dickerman.

4. In April of 2004, the 4th grade classes at Peter G. Schmidt Elementary School participated in taking the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) tests.

5. On April 24, 2004, Ms. Dickerman was observed seated at her desk with open student WASL answer booklets by Sean Colgan, 4th grade teacher at Peter G. Schmidt Elementary School. Mr. Colgan observed Ms. Dickerman, with a writing instrument in her hand, making writing or erasing motions on the student WASL booklets. Mr. Colgan told Karen Milliman, 4th grade teacher at Peter G. Schmidt Elementary School, what he had observed Ms. Dickerman doing. Ms. Milliman, then, observed Ms. Dickerman seated at her desk, with a writing instrument in her hand, with open student WASL booklets in front of her.

6. During the WASL testing period, Marilyn Krause, Peter G. Schmidt Elementary School counselor and testing coordinator for the WASL, looked at 4th grade students booklets. Ms. Krause observed erasure marks and differing styles of handwriting in the student answer booklets.

7. Chris Lindblom, Principal at Peter G. Schmidt Elementary School, reviewed the student WASL test booklets with D.S., and J.L., 4th grade students from Ms. Dickerman's class. D.S. and J.L. told Mr. Lindblom that they did not write some of the answers that were in their Reading and Writing test booklets.

8. Ms. Dickerman told Mr. Lindblom that she had been seated at her desk with open student WASL test booklets and had been erasing stray marks on the booklet pages. Ms. Dickerman denied erasing, changing, or adding material to student WASL answer booklets.

9. Eight (8) students from Ms. Dickerman's 4th grade class state that they did not write part of the handwritten answers that are in their WASL Reading and Writing testing booklets. Student A.G. stated that the handwriting, that is different from hers, looks like Ms. Dickerman's handwriting.

10. Ms. Dickerman, through her attorney, declined to participate in an interview or to submit a sworn statement.

11. The Tumwater School District is not taking disciplinary action with Ms. Dickerman until the OPP investigation has been concluded.

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

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. OSPI has jurisdiction over Gail Dickerman and over the subject matter of this action.

2. OSPI has shown by clear and convincing evidence that the Washington Education Certificate, No. 173270J, of Gail Dickerman, should be suspended as provided for in WAC 180-86-070.

3. Gail Dickerman has violated WAC 180-87-060, WAC 180-86-013, WAC 180-86-014, and/or RCW 28A.410.090.

ORDER

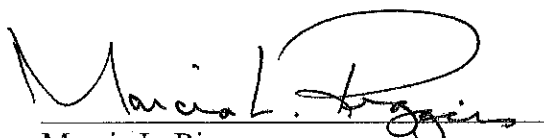
THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered and agreed that the Washington Education Certificate, No. 173270J, of Gail Dickerman, be suspended for thirty (30) days being December 4, 2004 through January 2, 2005. Reinstatement shall be automatic.

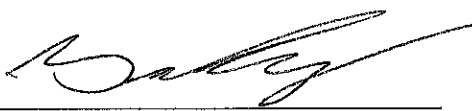
DATED This 30th day of November, 2004.

DR. TERRY BERGESON
Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Washington

Stipulated to and approved
For entry:


Gail Dickerman, Respondent


Marcia L. Riggers
Assistant Superintendent
Student Support and Operations


Mike Gawley, Attorney for Respondent
WSBA #22110 - Approved as to
GAIL DICKERMAN *PER M*
AGREED ORDER OF SUSPENSION