



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. D06-02-012
)	
)	AGREED ORDER
CHERYL GORT)	OF SUSPENSION
Certificate No. 341290E)	
)	

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 Cheryl Gort, that the Washington Education Certificate, No. 341290E, of Cheryl Gort, shall be suspended, based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth below:

FINDING OF FACTS

1. Cheryl Gort was issued a Washington Education Certificate, No. 341290E, on October 5, 1995. That certificate currently remains valid.
2. Ms. Gort was employed by the Granite Falls School District.

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3. On January 31, 2006, the Office of Professional Practices, within OSPI, received a complaint letter from the Superintendent of the Granite Falls 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 Cheryl Gort.

4. On March 26, 2004 Ms. Gort brought and consumed vodka at Monte Cristo Elementary school to the point of intoxication and had to leave school early.

5. On March 29, 2004, Ms. Gort entered a ninety-day Intensive Out-patient treatment program at Valley General Hospital, for three hour sessions, three times a week.

6. On May 5, 2004, Ms. Gort entered into a "Last Chance Agreement" with the Granite Falls School District and was released to return to work. As part of the agreement, Ms. Gort agreed to be tested for alcohol on an unannounced basis and in addition to any treatment center tests. If Ms. Gort tested positive at any time, she would be subjected to discharge from her employment with the district.

7. On May 12, 2004, the Executive Director of Human Resources, Vervia Gabriel, issued Ms. Gort a letter stating that she was considered on administrative leave from March 29, 2004 until signing the "Last Chance Agreement" on May 5, 2004, and on sick leave from May 6, 2004 until the end of the school year. The letter also stated the agreement that Ms. Gort would provide the district with her initial evaluation summary and recommendations, as well as agreeing to sign a permission to exchange information form for her evaluators and therapists.

8. On July 7, 2004 Ms. Gort began "Aftercare" treatment with Valley General Hospital consisting of a three hour session once a week and attendance in a twelve step program.

9. On January 3, 2006, Ms. Gort, while taking prescription medication for anxiety, consumed vodka on school grounds at Granite Falls Middle School. She was then involved in a non-injury collision in the parking lot between her personal vehicle and a Granite Falls School bus. Granite Falls Police Department investigated the collision. Ms. Gort was transported from the scene and cited under RCW 46.61.502 for driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor into Snohomish County District Court, Cascade Division.

10. On January 6, 2006 Ms. Gort voluntarily entered into a twenty-eight day, in-patient treatment at Lakeside-Milam Recovery Center in Everett WA. Mrs. Gort completed the 28-day inpatient treatment on February 3, 2006 and was referred to an out-patient treatment program.

11. On January 11, 2006 Ms. Gort submitted her resignation to take effect on February 1, 2006. The Granite Falls School Board accepted her resignation at the regular board meeting on January 18, 2006.

12. On February 21, 2006, Mrs. Gort received a deferred prosecution from the Snohomish County District Court, Cascade Division. The Judgment and Sentence states that the charge of Driving a Motor Vehicle While Under the Influence was suspended/deferred/stayed for a period of 5 years, with 2 years of active probation and 3 years of monitored probation and total court fees of \$1675.

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

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. OSPI has jurisdiction over Cheryl Gort and over the subject matter of this action.

2. OSPI has shown by clear and convincing evidence that Washington Education Certificate, No. 341290E, of Cheryl Gort, should be suspended as provided for in WAC 181-86-070.

3. Cheryl Gort has violated WAC 181-87-055, RCW 28A.410.090, WAC 181-86-013, and WAC 181-86-014.

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ORDER

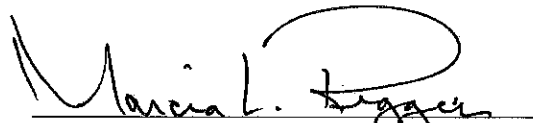
THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered and agreed that the Washington Education Certificate, No. 341290E, of Cheryl Gort, be suspended for twenty-one (21) months from the date of entry of this Order.

Reinstatement will require successful completion of, or continued compliance in an alcohol treatment program which is mutually agreed upon between Ms. Gort and OPP. Ms. Gort agrees to provide OPP with evidence of her successful completion of or continued compliance in her treatment program. If requested, she will sign consent forms authorizing OPP to have access to all records pertaining to her treatment and to discuss any and all treatment undertaken with the providers administering treatment. The cost of conformance to all reinstatement requirements will be the responsibility of Cheryl Gort.

Reinstatement shall also require submission of a new application, provided by OPP and having Ms. Gort's fingerprints be checked by both the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Washington State Patrol (WSP).

DATED This 18th day of May, 2006.

DR. TERRY BERGESON
Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Washington



Marcia L. Riggers
Assistant Superintendent
Student Support and Operations

Stipulated to and approved
For entry:



Cheryl Gort, Respondent

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