



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

DR. TERRY BERGESON OLD CAPITOL BUILDING • PO BOX 47200 • OLYMPIA WA 98504-7200 • <http://www.k12.wa.us>

I, Mary Myrland, certify that on 1/13/03, I mailed a copy of this document, certified & postage prepaid, to all parties or their counsel of record. I certify under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the state of Washington, that the foregoing is true and correct.

IN THE MATTER OF THE EDUCATION)
CERTIFICATE OF)

OPP No. D99-09-100

JOHN SIDNEY HOBBS)
Certificate No. 341152G)

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 suspend the Washington education certificate No. 341152G, of John S. Hobbs, for a minimum of twelve (12) months, based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth below:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. John S. Hobbs was issued a Washington education certificate, No. 341152G, on September 28, 1995. That certificate currently remains valid.
2. In September of 1997, John S. Hobbs was hired as a full-time teacher by the Naselle-Grays River Valley School District. During the summer of 1999, John S. Hobbs was employed on a supplemental contract to provide teaching services to students at the district's junior/senior high school youth camp. The Naselle Youth Camp is a minimum-security facility for minors convicted of various crimes including sex offenses.

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3. On September 15, 1999, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) / Office of Professional Practices (OPP) received a complaint letter from the superintendent of the Naselle-Grays River Valley 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) 180-87-060, by John S. Hobbs.

4. On August 4, 1999, John S. Hobbs was teaching an evening math class. A student observed John S. Hobbs viewing inappropriate material on a lap top computer. The student reported the incident to the youth camp authorities who reported it to the school principal.

5. On August 6, 1999, John S. Hobbs was placed on administrative leave with pay pending the outcome of an investigation into the allegation.

6. The school district arranged to have the computer examined by Computer Forensics, Inc. to determine what use had been made of the computer.

7. On September 9, 1999, John S. Hobbs entered into a settlement agreement with the Naselle-Grays River Valley School District and resigned from his teaching position.

8. John S. Hobbs continued to substitute teach for other districts in the surrounding area without further complaints to OSPI/OPP.

9. On March 14, 2000, John S. Hobbs entered into a twelve-month Agreed Order of Stayed Suspension with OSPI. As a part of that agreement, John S. Hobbs was required to provide a copy of the Agreed Order to the Department of Education in any state which he may apply for certification. Mr. Hobbs was also to have no violations of WAC 180-86-013/014, WAC 180-87, or RCW 28A.410.090.

10. On February 29, 2000, John S. Hobbs completed an application for a California teaching credential.

On that application, he answered "no" to the Personal and Professional Fitness Section's question 4a which states: "Have you ever been dismissed, resigned from, or otherwise left school employment because of allegations of misconduct?"

On that application, he answered "no" to the Personal and Professional Fitness Section's question 4c which states: "Are you currently the subject of *any* inquiry or investigation by any licensing agency or law enforcement agency?"

He did, however, answer yes to question 4f concerning disciplinary action on a certificate.

11. John S. Hobbs did not submit a copy of the Agreed Order of Stayed Suspension with his California application in February. He did not submit a copy to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing until November 2000.

12. On August 3, 2001, the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing recommended Denial of his application. The action became final 30 days later. In part, the denial was based upon: 1) failure to disclose his resignation from Naselle-Grays Harbor River School District, and 2) making erroneous statements concerning his conversation with a Certification Analyst.

13. John S. Hobbs violated his Agreed Order of Stayed Suspension by not submitting a copy of the order with his application and for falsifying questions on his California certification application.

12. Good moral character and personal fitness is a requirement to maintain a Washington education certificate.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) has jurisdiction over John S. Hobbs and over the subject matter of this action.

2. OSPI has shown by clear and convincing evidence that John S. Hobbs education certificate should be suspended as provided for in WAC 180-86-070.

3. John S. Hobbs has violated WAC 180-87 and the Agreed Order of Stayed Suspension.

ORDER

It is hereby ordered that the Washington education certificate of John S. Hobbs be suspended for a minimum of twelve (12) months.

Reinstatement shall require submission of a new application, provided by the Office of Professional Practices and having John S. Hobbs's fingerprints checked by the Washington State Patrol (WSP) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

DATED This 13th day of January, 2003.

DR. TERRY BERGESON
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Washington

By: 
Thomas J. Kelly
Chief Operations Officer