



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)

Robert LaRiviere)
Certificate No. 260381R)

OPP No. D08-06-041

FINAL ORDER
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. 260381R, of Robert LaRiviere for twelve (12) months based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth below:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Robert LaRiviere was issued a Washington Education Certificate, No. 260381R, on July 1, 1984. That certificate currently remains valid.
2. Robert LaRiviere was employed by the Bellingham School District.
3. On June 4, 2008, the Office of Professional Practices, within OSPI, received a complaint letter from the superintendent of the Bellingham 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 Robert LaRiviere.

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4. On May 21, 1996, Robert LaRiviere signed a District document acknowledging that he had read and agreed to follow the rules and procedures outlined in Bellingham School Board Policy and Procedures 5260 - Staff Access to Networked Information Resources.

5. Bellingham School District Policy #5260, Staff Access to Networked Information Resources, states that "The Board expects that all employees will use electronic mail and telecommunication tools and apply them in appropriate ways to the performance of tasks associated with their positions and assignments."

6. During the 2007-2008 school year, Robert LaRiviere used Bellingham School District computer equipment to attempt to access and to access and view websites containing sexually explicit images. Robert LaRiviere accessed and/or attempted to access websites that included the word "teen" in the website address (URL).

7. During the 2007-2008 school year, C.B., a seventeen year old male student, observed Robert LaRiviere viewing an image of a partially nude woman on his Bellingham School District assigned computer.

8. During the 2007-2008 school year, Robert LaRiviere made inappropriate comments to students.

9. On May 5, 2008, Robert LaRiviere was placed on administrative leave.

10. On May 20, 2008, Robert LaRiviere signed a Settlement Agreement with the Bellingham School District. Robert LaRiviere submitted a letter of resignation to the Bellingham School District; effective the end of the 2007-2008 school year.

11. On August 13, 2008, OPP received a statement response from Mr. LaRiviere.

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 Robert LaRiviere and over the subject matter of this action.

2. OSPI has shown by clear and convincing evidence that the Washington Education Certificate, No. 260381R, of Robert LaRiviere, should be suspended as provided for in WAC 181-86-070.

3. Robert LaRiviere has violated WAC 181-87, RCW 28A.410.090, WAC 181-86-013, and/or WAC 181-86-014.

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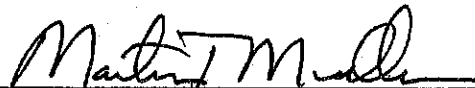
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ORDER

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. 260381R, of Robert LaRiviere is Suspended.

DATED This 6th day of October, 2008.

DR. TERRY BERGESON
Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Washington



Martin T. Mueller
Assistant Superintendent
Student Support