



# 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 )  
 )  
Kenton Sanders )  
Certificate No. 304312B )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

OPP No. D02-06-078

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. 304312B, of Kenton Sanders for twelve (12) months based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth below:

### FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Kenton Sanders was issued a Washington Education Certificate, No. 304312B, on February 5, 1991. That certificate currently remains valid.
2. Kenton Sanders was employed by the Kennewick School District.
3. On March 26, 2002, the Office of Professional Practices, within OSPI, received a complaint letter from the superintendent of the Kennewick School District alleging a lack of

KENTON SANDERS  
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good moral character or personal fitness, or a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct, Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 180-87, by Kenton Sanders.

4. From August of 2001 to February 25<sup>th</sup> of 2002, Kenton Sanders used Kennewick School District assigned computer to view pornographic and/or sexually suggestive images from the Internet. Kenton Sanders viewed pornographic and/or sexually suggestive images during, before, and after school hours. Sixth and seventh grade students were present in the classroom while Kenton Sanders was viewing pornographic and/or sexually suggestive images.

5. On February 26, 2002, William Ridge, a substitute teacher for Kenton Sander's classroom, located paperwork at Kenton Sanders' desk with pornographic/sexually suggestive images. Galt Pettett, Kennewick School District In-house attorney, and Ronald Cone, Kennewick School District Executive Director of IT Services, removed Kenton Sanders' computer from the school in the afternoon of February 26, 2002.

6. Ronald Cone reviewed images from Kenton Sanders' computer and observed pornographic/sexually suggestive images from the hard drive.

7. In March of 2002, Galt Pettett transferred custody of Kenton Sanders' computer hard drive to Detective Simon Mantel and Detective T.D Scott, Kennewick Police Department.

8. On March 12, 2002, during a meeting with Beverly Johnson-Torelli, Kennewick School District Executive Director of Personnel, Steven Jones, Principal at Desert Hills Middle School,

and Matthew Scott, assistant principal at Desert Hills Middle School, Kenton Sanders admitted to using his classroom computer to view pornographic/sexually suggestive images and to gamble on the Internet. Kenton Sanders admitted to such Internet usage before, during, and after school. Kenton Sanders' also admitted to viewing pornographic/sexually suggestive images while students were present in his classroom.

9. On March 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of 2002, Detective T.D Scott conducted a forensic investigation of Kenton Sander's computer. Using a key word search, Detective Scott located 1375 hits for the word "gambling" and 385 other hits for sexually descriptive words/wording.

10. On March 18, 2002, Kenton Sanders was suspended without pay for five (5) days. After a grievance procedure, the suspension was reduced to three (3) days without pay. On April 10, 2002, Kenton Sanders signed a "Last Chance Agreement" with the Kennewick School District.

11. On April 20, 2004, the Office of Professional Practices, within OSPI, received a second complaint letter from the superintendent of the Kennewick 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 Kenton Sanders.

12. During February of 2004, Kenton Sanders used a Kennewick School District computer to access and attempt to access websites depicting pornography and/or sexually suggestive images. Kenton Sanders' Internet activity was monitored by an Internet monitoring software program called SurfControl, utilized by the Kennewick School District.

13. Kenton Sanders' accessed websites that contained pictures of pornographic/sexually suggestive content. Kenton Sanders attempted to access and/or accessed over 260 website pages for online dating services and personal pages. Kenton Sanders attempted to access and/or accessed about 118 website pages that SurfControl labels as adult/sexually explicit content. Kenton Sanders attempted to access and/or accessed numerous other sites that include female reference in the URL (website address) that SurfControl labeled as "hosting sites" or as "none".

14. On March 17, 2004, Kenton Sanders' employment with the Kennewick School District was terminated.

15. Kennewick School District Policy #2313 – K-12 Network Acceptable Use Guidelines/Internet Safety Requirements – states that use of the system to access, store, or distribute obscene, pornographic or inappropriate material is prohibited.

16. 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 Kenton Sanders and over the subject matter of this action.

2. OSPI has shown by clear and convincing evidence that the Washington Education Certificate, No. 304312B, of Kenton Sanders, should be suspended as provided for in WAC 180-86-070.

3. Kenton Sanders has violated WAC 180-87, WAC 180-86-013, and WAC 180 86-014.

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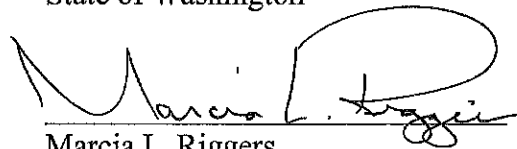
**ORDER**

THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that the Washington Education Certificate, No. 304312B, of Kenton Sanders be suspended for twelve (12) months.

Reinstatement shall require: successful completion of a psychological evaluation which validates Kenton Sanders' ability to have unsupervised access to children, by an evaluator mutually agreed upon by the Office of Professional Practices (OPP); that Kenton Sanders follow and complete any and all treatment recommended in the evaluation; that Kenton Sanders provide a release authorizing OPP to have access to records of any and all evaluation and any and all subsequent treatment undertaken; and that the cost of conformance to all reinstatement requirements will be the responsibility of Kenton Sanders.

DATED This 19<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2004.

DR. TERRY BERGESON  
Superintendent of Public Instruction  
State of Washington



Marcia L. Riggers  
Assistant Superintendent  
Student Support and Operations