

I, Maggie Pagan certify that on June 3, 2009, 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)
CERTIFICATES OF)
SONDRA BROOKHART (BRIGHT))
Certificates No. 376587A)
_____)

OPP No. D07-04-039

FINAL ORDER OF
SUSPENSION

COMES NOW Gene Sharratt, Review Officer of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), having reviewed the files of the above-referenced case, and having considered the arguments of each party and the recommendation of the Admissions and Professional Conduct Advisory Committee, does hereby order that the Washington Education Certificates, No. 376587A, of Sondra Brookhart (Bright) be suspended for six (6) months based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth below:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Sondra Brookhart (Bright) was issued her first Washington Education Certificate, No. 376587A, on April 10, 2000. Her Residency Administrator and Substitute Teacher Certificates currently remain valid.
2. Sondra Brookhart (Bright) was employed by Tacoma Public Schools.
3. On April 13, 2007, the Office of Professional Practices, within OSPI, received a complaint letter from Dr. Charles D. Milligan, Superintendent of Tacoma Public Schools, alleging a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct, Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 181-87, by Sondra Brookhart (Bright).

4. On April 16, 2000, Sondra Brookhart (Bright) submitted a letter to Larry DeBruler, Associate Superintendent for Employee Relations with the Auburn School District. Sondra Brookhart (Bright) indicated that she was applying for the position of Elementary Classroom Teacher Job No. C0-001. In her letter, Sondra Brookhart (Bright) told Larry DeBruler that she had a Masters Degree in Teaching from the University of Puget Sound; however, her transcript shows she obtained her degree on August 11, 2000.

5. On February 17, 2004, Sondra Brookhart (Bright) sent a letter to Human Resources for Federal Way Public Schools, stating that she was pleased to be applying for the position of Curriculum and Instruction Dean at Sacajawea Middle School. Sondra Brookhart (Bright) also wrote, "I will earn both my administrative credentials and Ph.D. this year and am looking forward to using those credentials in a position that directly affects teaching and learning".

6. On February, 19, 2004, Linda Scarvie, Principal at Hazelwood Elementary, wrote a Letter of Recommendation for Sondra Brookhart (Bright). Sondra Brookhart (Bright) was applying for the position of Curriculum and Instruction Dean at Sacajawea Middle School with Federal Way Public Schools. In the Letter of Recommendation, Principal Linda Scarvie wrote that Sondra Brookhart (Bright) "recently completed work for her Ph.D. through the University of Washington, completing her doctoral dissertation on reading improvement for students in grades 4-10".

7. On February 19, 2004, Federal Way Public Schools received a Certificated Application for Employment from Sondra Brookhart (Bright), dated February 17, 2004. Under the section

titled EDUCATION, Sondra Brookhart (Bright) noted she expected to receive her Ph.D. in Educational Leadership, in 2004, from the University of Washington.

8. On February 19, 2004, Federal Way School District received a resume from Sondra Brookhart (Bright). This resume was submitted as a supplement to Sondra Brookhart (Bright)'s Certificated Application for Employment with Federal Way Public Schools. On her resume, under the section titled EDUCATION, Sondra Brookhart (Bright) listed that she had a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, 1997-Present, University of Washington, Seattle. Under the same section, Sondra Brookhart (Bright) listed Educational Administration (Expected June 2004) University of Washington, Tacoma.

9. On October 28, 2004, Human Resources for Federal Way Public Schools received an Administrative Application for Employment submitted by Sondra Brookhart (Bright). Under the section titled, EDUCATION, Sondra Brookhart (Bright) lists Ph.D. in Education Leadership from the University of Washington. Under the subsection titled, GRADUATION DATE, Sondra Brookhart (Bright) listed, June 2005.

10. On October 28, 2004, Assistant Superintendent Carol Matsui emailed a letter of recommendation to Human Resources at Federal Way Public Schools as a result of Sondra Brookhart (Bright)'s application for the position of Assistant Principal. In the email, Carol Matsui wrote that Sondra Brookhart (Bright) "Has a Ph.D. in the area of CIA". When questioned about why Carol Matsui thought Sondra Brookhart (Bright) had a Ph.D. she said that Sondra Brookhart (Bright) told her that she had one. Carol Matsui further stated that Sondra Brookhart (Bright) was very forthcoming with the fact that she had a Ph.D. and had told a lot of people. Carol Matsui said that Sondra Brookhart (Bright) even used the title of, "Dr." on her paperwork.

11. On March 28, 2005, Sondra Brookhart (Bright) obtained a Letter of Recommendation from Eric Dickinson, Assistant Principal at Sacajawea Middle School, with Federal Way Public Schools. In Eric Dickinson's Letter, he refers to Sondra Brookhart (Bright) as "Dr. Bright".

12. On April 8, 2005, Sondra Brookhart (Bright) sent a letter to Chuck Christensen, Executive Director, Human Resources for Federal Way Public Schools, thanking him for the opportunity to apply for the position of Curriculum Assistant Principal at Thomas Jefferson High School. In the letter to Chuck Christensen, Sondra Brookhart (Bright) writes, "I hold a Ph.D. in Leadership and Policy Studies from the University of Washington and currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Curriculum, Instruction, & Educational Reform at the University of Washington"; Sondra Brookhart (Bright) typed, "Sondra Bright, PhD" at the bottom of her letter.

13. On April 8, 2005, Sondra Brookhart (Bright) submitted a Resume as a supplement to her Application for Employment with Federal Way Public Schools. Under the section EDUCATION, Sondra Brookhart (Bright) has listed a Ph.D. Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, University of Washington, 2004.

14. Sondra Brookhart (Bright) submitted an "Administrative Employment Application" dated April 12, 2005, to Tacoma School District #10. Under the section GRADUATE WORK, Sondra Brookhart (Bright) listed that she had a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership & Curriculum and Instruction.

15. On April 15, 2005, Tacoma Public Schools received a placement file for Sondra Brookhart (Bright). The file was prepared by The University of Puget Sound Career and Employment Services, on April 13, 2005, and contained a resume that was furnished by Sondra Brookhart

(Bright). On Sondra Brookhart (Bright)'s resume, under the section titled EDUCATION, Sondra Brookhart (Bright) listed that she had a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, University of Washington, 2005.

16. On April 15, 2005, Sondra Brookhart (Bright) sent a Letter of Interest to Mr. Christianson, at Federal Way Public Schools. In her letter, Sondra Brookhart (Bright) wrote, "I am finishing my Ph.D. in Leadership and Policy Studies from the University of Washington and currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Curriculum, Instruction, & Educational Reform at the University of Washington". Sondra Brookhart (Bright)'s letterhead on the letter to Mr. Christianson identifies her as, "Dr. Sondra Bright" and "Sondra Bright, Ph.c" is typed at the signature. Included with Sondra Brookhart (Bright)'s Letter of Interest is a copy of the same resume included in Findings of Facts #13, indicating Sondra Brookhart (Bright) has a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, University of Washington, 2005.

17. Sondra Brookhart (Bright)'s transcript from the University of Washington for graduate studies shows that as of Spring Quarter, 2005, her Ph.D. was a "Work in Progress".

18. During the 2005-2006 school year while employed as Curriculum Assistant Principal at Thomas Jefferson High School, Sondra Brookhart (Bright) submitted a resume for Elementary School Principal with Tacoma Public Schools. Under the section, EDUCATION, Sondra Brookhart (Bright) listed, "Ph.D. Educational leadership and Policy Studies, University of Washington, 2006 - Advanced graduate study in 4-10 literacy and mathematics including motivating minority students through assessment in mathematics".

19. On June 8, 2006, Sondra Brookhart (Bright) addressed a letter to Mr. Ullock, thanking him for his consideration for the position of Director of Secondary Education. In this letter, Sondra Brookhart (Bright) states, "I am currently finishing my Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at the University of Washington".

20. On February 6, 2006, Sondra Brookhart (Bright) obtained a Letter of Recommendation from Robynn Harrington, Assistant Principal for Special Projects with Federal Way Public Schools. In the Letter of Recommendation from Robynn Harrington, Sondra Brookhart (Bright) is referred to as "Dr. Bright".

21. On October 6, 2006, Sondra Brookhart (Bright) placed Work Order No. 169500 with the Tacoma Public Schools for business cards identifying herself as, "Dr. Sondra Bright, Director Curriculum & Instruction Math/Science/Health/Fitness".

22. Sondra Brookhart (Bright) dropped out of the Doctoral program at the University of Washington during winter quarter, 2006, while she was employed with Tacoma Public Schools.

23. On March 28, 2007, Sondra Brookhart (Bright) submitted a Letter of Resignation to Karen Dickinson, Associate Superintendent Tacoma Public Schools.

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

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. OSPI has jurisdiction over Sondra Brookhart (Bright) and over the subject matter of this action.

2. OSPI has shown by clear and convincing evidence that the Washington Education Certificates, No. 376587A, of Sondra Brookhart (Bright), should be suspended as provided for in WAC 181-86-070.

3. Sondra Brookhart (Bright) has violated WAC 181-87-050(1), 181-86-013 and 181-86-014.

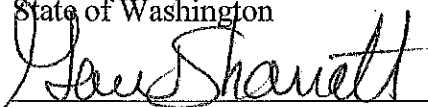
ORDER

THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that the Washington Education Certificates, No. 376587A, of Sondra Brookhart (Bright) be suspended for six (6) months.

Reinstatement shall require submission of a new application, provided by OPP and having Sondra Brookhart (Bright)'s fingerprints be checked by both the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Washington State Patrol (WSP). Reinstatement shall be also contingent upon Sondra Brookhart (Bright)'s fingerprint background check returning with no criminal convictions that are listed in WAC 181-86-013, RCW 28A.410.090, and/or any felony convictions.

This Order will become final thirty (30) calendar days from the date of receipt of this order unless respondent files an appeal for a formal hearing before the Office of Administrative Hearings. Please direct the appeal and request for formal hearing to Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Administrative Law Office, Old Capitol Building, P.O. Box 47200, Olympia, WA 98504-7200.

DATED this 3rd day of June, 2009.

RANDY I. DORN
Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Washington

DR. GENE SHARRATT
Review Officer