



# 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. D06-04-042
Michelle Pforr )	FINAL ORDER
Certificate No. 423456C )	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. 423456C, of Michelle Pforr for thirty (30) days based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth below:

### FINDINGS OF FACT

- Michelle Pforr was issued a Washington Education Certificate, No. 423456C, on February 4, 2005. That certificate currently remains valid.
- Michelle Pforr was employed by the Tukwila School District.
- On May 3, 2005, the Office of Professional Practices, within OSPI, did receive a complaint letter from the superintendent of the Clover Park School District alleging a lack of personal fitness, or a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct, Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 180-87, by Michelle Pforr.

PIERCE COUNTY SHERIFF  
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MICHELLE PFORR  
 FINAL ORDER OF SUSPENSION

4. On August 24, 2004, Ms. Pforr completed an Application for Washington State Career and Technical Education Teacher Certificate for OSPI. On the application, Ms. Pforr stated that she had received a Bachelor of Arts degree from West Virginia University.

5. On August 24, 2004, Ms. Pforr completed a Certificated Personnel Application for the Clover Park School District. On the application, Ms. Pforr stated that she had received a Bachelor of Arts degree from West Virginia University.

6. On April 20, 2005, Ms. Pforr was advised by Doris McEwen, Superintendent of the Clover Park School District that her contract for the 2005-2006 school year would not be renewed. The reasons for non-renewal were: Ms. Pforr's failure to follow through with contractual obligations and provide official collegiate transcripts and other necessary documentation; and Ms. Pforr falsified her application for employment with Clover Park Schools.

7. Ms. Pforr attended West Virginia University from August 1994 to May 1998. A Bachelor of Arts degree was not conferred upon Ms. Pforr by West Virginia University.

8. On June 16, 2005, during a telephone interview with an OPP investigator, Ms. Pforr said that she had stated on the applications that she had a degree from West Virginia University because she thought she had enough credits for a degree and had received a degree. She said that she has never received a diploma and since the Clover Park School District investigation, she has learned that West Virginia University says that she did not receive a degree.

9. On November 14, 2005, an Agreed Order of Reprimand was issued by OSPI for Ms. Pforr; D05-05-048.

10. On April 10, 2006, the Office of Professional Practices, within OSPI, received a complaint letter from the superintendent of the Tukwila 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 Michelle Pforr.

11. On January 5, 2006, the Tukwila School District received a printed copy of an online application from Ms. Pforr. On the application, Ms. Pforr listed her College/University Education as Waynseburg College and listed that she had obtained an Associate Program degree/diploma. West Virginia University is not listed on this application.

12. On January 23, 2006, Nina Melencio, Human Resources Director for the Tukwila School District, conducted a finalist interview with Ms. Pforr for a Media Arts teaching position. During the interview, Ms. Pforr stated that it was her understanding that her contract with Clover Park School District was non-renewed for budgeting reasons. Ms. Pforr also advised Ms. Melencio that the Human Resources office in Clover Park School District had put down that she had a bachelor's degree when she didn't. Ms. Pforr said that she had written on her application that she had a degree and the Human Resources department assumed it was a bachelor's degree.

13. On March 23, 2006, Ms. Melencio conducted an interview with Ms. Pforr. Ms. Melencio asked Ms. Pforr why she her contract was non-renewed at Clover Park School District and Ms.

Pfarr responded that it was a personal issue that had to do with another employee and a police report. Ms. Pfarr also stated, when asked, that she thought she had a Liberal Arts Degree and that was why she put it on the application. Ms. Pfarr later stated that she thought she had received a Bachelor of Arts degree.

14. On March 28, 2006, Ms. Pfarr was issued a letter of probable cause for termination by Dr. James Quezon Hammond, Superintendent of the Tukwila School District.

15. On April 6, 2006, Ms. Pfarr submitted a letter appealing the letter of probable cause for termination.

16. On July 6, 2006, Ms. Pfarr was issued a letter stating that her contract for the 2006-2007 school year would not be renewed.

17. 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 Michelle Pforr and over the subject matter of this action.
  
2. OSPI has shown by clear and convincing evidence that the Washington Education Certificate, No. 423456C, of Michelle Pforr, should be suspended as provided for in WAC 181-86-070.
  
3. Michelle Pforr has violated WAC 181-87-050, RCW 28A.410.090, WAC 181-86-013, and/or WAC 181-86-014.

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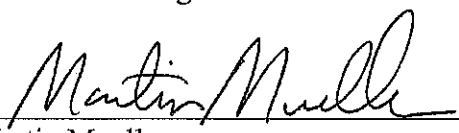
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**ORDER**

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. 423456C, of Michelle Pforr is suspended for 30 days.

DATED This 21<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2006.

DR. TERRY BERGESON  
Superintendent of Public Instruction  
State of Washington

  
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Martin Mueller  
Assistant Superintendent  
Student Support and Operations