



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

RANDY I. DORN 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. D14-02-018
)	
Meredith Powell)	FINAL ORDER OF
Certificate No. 489643G)	MANDATORY PERMANENT
_____)	REVOCATION

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 permanently revoke the Washington Education Certificate, No. 489643G, of Meredith Powell, based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth below:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Meredith Powell was issued a Washington Education Certificate, No. 489642G, on June 21, 2013. That certificate currently remains valid.

2. Meredith Powell was employed by the Tacoma School District.

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3. On February 20, 2014, the Office of Professional Practices, within OSPI, did receive a complaint letter from the superintendent of the Tacoma School District alleging a lack of personal fitness, or a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct, Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 181-87, by Meredith Powell

4. During the 2013/2014 school year, Meredith Powell had inappropriate communications, including, but not limited to, electronic communications, with three (3) Tacoma School District high school students, M.R., L.H., and C.F. TPD Case # 14-036274 & Pierce County Superior Court Cause # 14-1-00505-1

5. During the period from January 2014 to February 4, 2014, Meredith Powell had sexual contact and sexual intercourse with M.R. and, L.H.. TPD Case # 14-036274 & Pierce County Superior Court Cause # 14-1-00505-1

6. On February 4, 2014, M.I., a female Lincoln High School student, provided the Tacoma School District a letter authored by Meredith Powell apologizing for making “promiscuous and unprofessional” comments and text messages to her boyfriend C.F. TPD Case # 14-036274 and Pierce County Superior Court Cause # 14-1-00505-1

7. On February 4, 2014, Tacoma School District placed Meredith Powell on administrative paid leave and notified TPD of the allegation.

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8. On February 6, 2014, Meredith Powell was interviewed by TPD and admitted to having sexual contact with both M.R. and L.H. in her classroom in January 2014. Meredith Powell also admitted to having sent M.R., L.H. and C.F sexual in nature text messages, in January 2014. Meredith Powell was arrested for Child Rape 3rd Degree and Communication with a Minor for Immoral Purposes. TPD Case # 14-036274 & Pierce County Superior Court Cause # 14-1-00505-1

9. On February 7, 2014, an Information and Declaration for Determination of Probable Cause were filed in Pierce County Superior Court charging Meredith Powell with two counts of Rape of a Child 3rd Degree, Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 9A.44.079, and one count of Communication with a Minor for Immoral Purposes via Electronic Communication, RCW 9.68A.090. Pierce County Superior Court Cause # 14-1-00505-1

10. On February 12, 2014, Meredith Powell submitted her resignation to Tacoma School District.

11. On March 25, 2014, A.D. reported to TPD that in the school year 2012-2013 after school he sought help from Meredith Powell with his math. A.D. alleged Meredith Powell reached down and unzipped his pants and performed masturbation on him causing him to ejaculate. Pierce County Superior Court Cause # 14-1-00505-1

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12. On April 3, 2014 an Amended Declaration For Determination of Probable Cause as to Count IV was filed in Pierce County Superior Court charging Meredith Powel with an additional count of Rape of a Child 3rd Degree. Pierce County Superior Court Cause # 14-1-00505-1

13. On July 22, 2014, in Pierce County Superior Court a Motion and Order for Dismissal without Prejudice on Count IV was submitted. The decision for dismissal of Court IV was made by the Prosecutor who believed given the current state of the evidence; the State does not believe it could prove all the elements in Count IV beyond a reasonable doubt. Pierce County Superior Court Cause # 14-1-00505-1

14. On July 23, 2014, Meredith Powell signed a Statement of Defendant of Plea of Guilty to Sex Offense (STTDFG). In the Statement of Defendant on Plea of Guilty, Meredith Powell pled guilty to two counts of Rape of a Child 3rd Degree and one count to communication with a minor for immoral purposes. Meredith Powell stated, "On January 17, 2014, I had sexual contact with M.R. when he digitally penetrated my vagina and he touched my breast. On or about January 30, 2014, I performed oral sex on F.H. Both M.R and F.H. were between the ages of 14 and 16 and neither was in any kind of domestic relationship with me. Between the dates of January 17 and January 28, 2014, I sent and received "text messages" from individuals she knew to be under the age of 18 for the express purpose of having sex... All the individuals were my students at the school I was employed as a teacher." Pierce County Superior Court Cause # 14-1-00505-1

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15. On August 29, 2014, a Judgment and Sentence was filed in Pierce County Superior Court finding Meredith Powell guilty, by plea, of Rape of two counts of Child 3rd Degree (RCW 9A.44.079) and one count of Communication with a Minor for Immoral Purposes (RCW 9A.68A.090) and she was sentenced. Pierce County Superior Court Cause # 14-1-00505-1

16. On September 11, 2014, OPP sent Meredith Powell a letter to Pierce County Jail notifying her of her opportunity to respond to the allegations of misconduct per RCW 28A.410.090. On September 26, 2014, OPP received a response from Meredith Powell indicating that OPP should proceed with their investigation accordingly.

17. Meredith Powell has pleaded guilty or been convicted of a crime identified in Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 28A.410.090 (3). Such a plea or conviction authorizes OSPI to permanently revoke the Education Certificate.

18. 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 * and over the subject matter of this action.

2. OSPI has shown by clear and convincing evidence that the Washington Education Certificate No. 489643G, of Meredith Powell, should be revoked for unprofessional conduct and/or lack of good moral character or personal fitness. RCW 28A.410.090; WAC 181-86-075; WAC 181-87-080; WAC 181-87-060; WAC 181-86-013; WAC 181-86-014.

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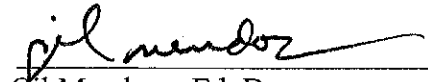
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ORDER

Therefore, it is hereby ordered that the Washington Education Certificate, No. 489643G,
of Meredith Powell be permanently revoked.

DATED This 12th day of November, 2014.

RANDY L. DORN
Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Washington



Gil Mendoza, Ed. D
Deputy Superintendent
K-12 Education

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