

# 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

Rex Whipple Certificate No. 388863C FINAL ORDER OF PERMANENT REVOCATION

OPP No. D06-03-030

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 abovereferenced case, and having considered the entire evidence contained therein, does hereby permanently revoke the Washington Education Certificate, No. 388863C, of Rex Whipple, based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth below:

# FINDINGS OF FACT

Rex Whipple was issued a Washington Education Certificate, No. 388863C, on July 12,
2001. That certificate currently remains valid.

2. Rex Whipple was employed by the Chimacum School District.

3. On March 17, 2006, the Office of Professional Practices (OPP), within OSPI, received a complaint letter alleging a lack of good moral character or personal fitness, or a violation of the

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REX WHIPPLE FINAL ORDER OF PERMANENT REVOCATION Code of Professional Conduct, Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 181-87, by Rex Whipple.

4. From September 2003 to March 2006, Mr. Whipple used Chimacum School District computer equipment to access, view, and store sexually explicit images.

5. From October 12, 2005 to March 11, 2006, Mr. Whipple was in possession of images depicting a 15 year-old female Chimacum High School student engaged in sexually explicit conduct on his Chimacum School District assigned laptop computer.

6. On March 13, 2006, Mr. Whipple was arrested by a Poulsbo Police Department police detective for the criminal charge of Voyeurism' Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 9a.44.115. Custody was transferred to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office and Mr. Whipple was booked into the Jefferson County Corrections Center; Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Report #0601357.

7. On March 13, 2006, Mr. Whipple was placed on administrative leave by Mike Blair, Superintendent of the Chimacum School District.

8. On March 14, 2006, an <u>Information</u> and <u>Declaration of Probable Cause</u> was filed in Jefferson County Superior Court charging Mr. Whipple with one count of Voyeurism, RCW 9A.44.115; Cause # 06-1-00049-3.

-2-

### REX WHIPPLE

FINAL ORDER OF PERMANENT REVOCATION

9. On March 23, 2006, Mr. Whipple resigned his position as principal of Chimacum High School, effective June 30, 2006.

10. On June 8, 2006, an <u>Amended Information</u> and <u>Amended Declaration of Probable</u> Cause was filed in Jefferson County Superior Court charging Mr. Whipple with one (1) count of Sexual Exploitation of A Minor, RCW 9.68A.040, and ten (10) counts of Possession of Depictions of Minor Engaged in Sexually Explicit Conduct, RCW 9.68A.070; Cause # 06-1-00049-3.

11. On October 13, 2006, Mr. Whipple was found guilty of nine (9) counts of Possession of Depictions of a Minor Engaged in Sexually Explicit Conduct, RCW 9.68A.070, by bench trial; Jefferson County Superior Court Cause #06-1-00049-3.

12. On November 1, 2006, Mr. Whipple was sentenced to: \$5,600 fines and court costs; register as a sex offender with the sheriff of the county of the state of Washington where he will reside upon release from incarceration; six (6) months confinement on each count with sentences to run concurrently; community custody with the Washington State Department of Corrections, upon release from incarceration, for a period of twelve (12) months; and other conditions; Jefferson County Superior Court Cause #06-1-00049-3.

13. Rex Whipple 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.

#### REX WHIPPLE

FINAL ORDER OF PERMANENT REVOCATION

-3-

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

# **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. OSPI has jurisdiction over Rex Whipple and over the subject matter of this action.

2. OSPI has shown by clear and convincing evidence that the Washington Education Certificate, No. 388863C, of Rex Whipple, should be revoked, as provided for in WAC 181-86-075.

3. Rex Whipple has violated WAC 181-87-060, WAC 181-87-080, WAC 181-86-013, WAC 181-86-014, and/or RCW 28A.410.090.

-4-

# REX WHIPPLE FINAL ORDER OF PERMANENT REVOCATION

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## <u>ORDER</u>

It has been thirty days since the Proposed Order of Permanent Revocation was received. The appeal time period has passed. It is hereby ordered that the Washington Education Certificate, No. 388863C, of Rex Whipple is permanently revoked.

12th day of Elmany 2007. DATED This

DR. TERRY BERGESON Superintendent of Public Instruction State of Washington

Martin T. Mueller Assistant Superintendent Student Support and Operations

REX WHIPPLE FINAL ORDER OF PERMANENT REVOCATION