



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Chris Reykdal Old Capitol Building · PO BOX 47200 · Olympia, WA 98504-7200 · <http://www.k12.wa.us>

RE: Maria Sedzro
OSPI Case Number: D18-08-076
Document: Final Order of Revocation

Regarding your request for information about the above-named educator; attached is a true and correct copy of the document on file with the State of Washington, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Office of Professional Practices. These records are considered certified by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Certain information may have been redacted pursuant to Washington state laws. While those laws require that most records be disclosed on request, they also state that certain information should not be disclosed.

The following information has been withheld: **None**

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding the information that was redacted, if any, please contact:

OSPI Public Records Office
P.O. Box 47200
Olympia, WA 98504-7200
Phone: (360) 725-6372
Email: PublicRecordsRequest@k12.wa.us

You may appeal the decision to withhold or redact any information by writing to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, OSPI P.O. Box 47200, Olympia, WA 98504-7200.



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IN THE MATTER OF THE EDUCATION)	
CERTIFICATE OF)	OPP No. D18-08-076
)	
MARIA SEDZRO)	FINAL ORDER
Certificate No. 423652G)	OF REVOCATION
)	

After receiving and investigating a complaint by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing from the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Credentialing (“NASDTEC”) regarding the above referenced educator, and based upon the facts available as of the date of this Proposed Order, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, through his undersigned designee, institutes this proceeding and finds, as described below, that MARIA SEDZRO (“Educator”) lacks the good moral character and personal fitness required of Washington State Educators under WAC 181-86-013 and WAC 181-86-014, and does hereby REVOKE the Educator’s Washington Education Certificate No. 423652G based on the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On February 15, 2005, the Educator was issued Washington Education Certificate No. 423652G. The Educator’s certificate, a substitute teacher certificate, has no expiration date. The Educator’s Residency Certificate expired on June 30, 2010.

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MARIA SEDZRO
FINAL ORDER OF REVOCATION

2. From September 3, 2014, to July 6, 2015, the Educator worked as a high school education teacher at the California Rehabilitation Center (“CRC”), a facility that is part of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. CRC is a medium Level II correctional facility with an inmate population consisting of felony commitments.

3. On July 26, 2018, the Office of Professional Practices (“OPP”) within the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (“OSPI”) received notice through NASDTEC that the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing had taken disciplinary action with the Educator’s California educator license.

4. On March 27, 2015, Michael Weaver, CRC Principal, issued the Educator a Letter of Instruction for failure to maintain accurate attendance records and poor classroom management practices. The letter addresses, among other issues, the Educator having a pattern of issuing written passes to inmates, excusing them from class.

5. On April 30, 2015, Mr. Weaver issued the Educator a Letter of Instruction after the Educator was found with her classroom entrance door locked while she was in the room with inmates, for having paper covering classroom windows, and being in a darkened room with inmates.

6. In, at least, 2015, up to and including July 6, 2015, the Educator, while an employee of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation working within the CRC, illegally provided contraband material, including but not limited to, cellular phones and tobacco products, to CRC inmates.

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7. In, at least, 2015, up to and including July 6, 2015, the Educator, while an employee of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation working within the CRC, engaged in an inappropriate relationship with a CRC inmate.

a. The Educator provided illegal contraband to the inmate including, but not limited to, a cellular phone, tattoo ink, and tobacco.

b. The Educator provided written non-educational correspondence to the inmate.

c. The Educator exchanged electronic messages with the inmate through the contraband cellular phone she had provided the inmate.

d. The Educator, while within the CRC, had inappropriate physical contact with the inmate, including, but not limited to, exchanging kisses and allowing the inmate to touch her buttocks.

8. On July 6, 2015, the Educator was interviewed by California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation special agents. During the interview, the Educator, among other comments, denied any type of communications with the inmate and denied being in a relationship with the inmate.

9. On July 6, 2015, the Educator resigned her employment with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

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10. On June 9, 2016, a Felony Complaint and Declaration in Support of Arrest Warrant were filed in Riverside County Superior Court, State of California, charging the Educator with:

a. Violation of California Penal Code section 68, subdivision (a), a felony, alleging that, as a public official, the Educator asked for, received, and agreed to receive a bribe.

b. Violation of California Penal Code section 182, subdivision (a), subsection (1), a felony, alleging that that, on or about March 1, 2015 through and including December 31, 2015, the Educator did willfully and unlawfully conspire together with another person or persons whose identity is unknown to commit the crime of UNLAWFUL COMMUNICATION WITH A PRISONER, by providing an inmate with an illegal cell phone to facilitate unauthorized communications with the inmate, while she was employed at California Rehabilitation Center.

c. Violation of California Penal Code section 4576, a misdemeanor, alleging that the Educator did willfully and unlawfully possess with the intent to deliver, or deliver, to an inmate any cellular telephone or other wireless communication device or any component thereof.

11. On July 12, 2016, the Educator was arrested by Moreno Valley Police Department officers on an arrest warrant for the Riverside Superior Court charges.

12. On February 23, 2017, the Educator signed a Misdemeanor Plea Agreement, which was filed in Riverside Superior Court. In the Plea Agreement, the Educator checked the box stating, "I agree that I did the things that are stated in the charges I am admitting."

13. On February 23, 2017, the Educator was found guilty, by plea, of a misdemeanor violation of California Penal Code 4570, Communication with a Prisoner.

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14. On March 19, 2017, the Educator completed a California teacher credential application. In her application, the Educator disclosed the misdemeanor Communicating with a Prisoner conviction. In explaining the conviction in the application, the Educator's stated, among other things, that the charges supposedly were brought on by a personal visit she made to her then fiancée at the Norco State Prison. "The charges against me were flagrant and untrue. I took the plea of guilty for Misdemeanor because I did not have funds to continue this through a court proceedings."

15. On August 11, 2017, California Commission on Teacher Credentialing sent a letter of inquiry to the Educator.

16. On September 15, 2017, the Division of Professional Practices, within California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, received a Declaration Statement from the Educator.

17. On February 16, 2018, California Commission on Teacher Credentialing notified the Educator that her California teaching credentials were to be suspended for a period of one hundred eighty (180) days. The decision was final on March 18, 2018.

18. On September 27, 2018, the Educator provided a response to OPP. In her response to OPP, the Educator stated, among other comments:

a. That she voluntarily disclosed her arrest to the State of California, although she didn't need to because it had no relation to her position as an educator.

b. That the criminal charges were a result of her speaking out against unnamed events or actions she observed while working at the CRC.

c. "Ironically, the charge I took had to do with communication something that teachers must do, therefore trying to ostracize me in my profession."

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II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Chapter 28A.410 RCW gives the Professional Educator Standards Board the authority to develop regulations determining eligibility for and certification of personnel employed in the common schools of the state of Washington. OSPI acts as the administrator of those statutes and regulations and has the authority to issue, reprimand, suspend, and revoke education certificates. RCW 28A.410.010; RCW 28A.410.090. Chapters 181-86 and 181-87 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) further implement OSPI's authority.
2. OSPI has jurisdiction over the Educator and the subject matter of this action.
3. There is clear and convincing evidence that the Educator lacks the good moral character and personal fitness required of educators, as defined in WAC 181-86-013, and -014, by her actions of illegally providing prohibited items to inmates in a state correctional facility while she was an employee of the correctional facility and by her repeated misrepresentations of her actions.
4. Pursuant to WAC 181-86-080, eleven factors, at a minimum, are to be considered to determine the appropriate level and range of educator discipline:
 - (1) The seriousness of the act(s) and the actual or potential harm to persons or property;
 - (2) The person's criminal history including the seriousness and amount of activity;
 - (3) The age and maturity level of participant(s) at the time of the activity;
 - (4) The proximity or remoteness of time in which the acts occurred;
 - (5) Any activity that demonstrates a disregard for health, safety or welfare;
 - (6) Any activity that demonstrates a behavioral problem;
 - (7) Any activity that demonstrates a lack of fitness;
 - (8) Any information submitted regarding discipline imposed by any governmental or private entity as a result of acts or omissions;
 - (9) Any information submitted that demonstrates aggravating or mitigating circumstances;
 - (10) Any information submitted to support character and fitness; and
 - (11) Any other relevant information submitted.

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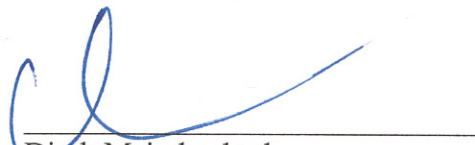
5. Based on the foregoing facts and considering them in light of the eleven factors enumerated in WAC 181-86-080, and in light of WAC 181-86-075, WAC 181-86-013, and WAC 181-86-014, the Educator's education certificate should be revoked for unprofessional conduct and/or a behavioral problem which endangers the educational welfare or personal safety of students, teachers, or other colleagues within the educational setting.

III. ORDER

THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that the Washington Education Certificate, No. 423652G of Maria Sedzro is **REVOKED**.

DATED this 19th day of February, 2019.

CHRIS REYKDAL
Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Washington



Dierk Meierbachtol
Chief Legal Officer