



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)
)
)
Debbie Pietsch)
Certificate No. 447650C)
)

OPP No. D11-04-022

AGREED ORDER
OF SUSPENSION

RECEIVED

JUL 03 2012

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES

COMES NOW the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, 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 stipulate by and between the Office of Professional Practices (OPP), Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), and Debbie Pietsch, that the Washington Education Certificate, No.447650C, of Debbie Pietsch, shall be suspended, based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth below:

FINDING OF FACTS

1. Debbie Pietsch was issued a Washington Education Certificate, No. 447650C, on September 21, 2007. That certificate currently remains valid.

2. Debbie Pietsch was employed by the Washington School for the Deaf.

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DEBBIE PIETSCH
AGREED ORDER OF SUSPENSION



3. On April 14, 2011, the Office of Professional Practices, within OSPI, received a complaint letter from the superintendent of the Washington School for the Deaf 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 Debbie Pietsch.

4. On or about October 28, 2010, Debbie Pietsch was following two students, B.A. and R.W., back to class after an assembly. The students stopped to speak with the school psychologist. Debbie Pietsch pushed B.A., a male student, in the back in an attempt to have B.A. continue to class.

5. On or about October 28, 2010, after returning to class, R.W. attempted to eat a piece of cake. Debbie Pietsch grabbed R.W. by the wrist and shook R.W.'s wrist with enough force that R.W. dropped the cake.

6. In a pre-disciplinary meeting on November 16, 2010, Debbie Pietsch stated that she had grabbed R.W.'s wrist in the manner described in the school's investigative report and that her actions were excessive and aggressive towards students.

7. On November 18, 2010, Debbie Pietsch was issued a one-day suspension without pay. T

8. On February 15, 2011, Jason Cox, school counselor, came to Debbie Pietsch's classroom to remove a student for a pre-scheduled counselor meeting. As Mr. Cox and the student were preparing to leave, Debbie Pietsch, using American Sign Language (ASL) told the student that Mr. Cox was a strange person and made a statement regarding Mr. Cox molesting the student.

9. On March 3, 2011, Debbie Pietsch was issued a five (5) day suspension without pay for the remarks made on February 15, 2011.

10. On October 10, 2011, Debbie Pietsch observed a student, J.P., in her classroom appeared to be under the influence of a controlled substance. Debbie Pietsch spoke with J.P. and J.P. admitted that she was under the influence of marijuana. Debbie Pietsch encouraged J.P. not to engage in using marijuana during school. Debbie Pietsch did not send J.P. to the office or otherwise remove J.P. from class.

11. On or about October 10, 2011, students in Debbie Pietsch's class made comments that J.P.'s mother allowed J.P. to use marijuana.

12. Debbie Pietsch spoke with her principal, Bill Newell, on the afternoon of October 10, 2011. Debbie Pietsch told Mr. Newell that she suspected that J.P. had been under the influence of drugs but did not tell Mr. Newell that J.P. had admitted to marijuana use, was under the influence of marijuana at school and that other students said J.P.'s mother allowed the use of marijuana.

13. On November 9, 2011, Debbie Pietsch submitted her resignation, effective December 2, 2011.

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14. On January 9, 2012, OPP received Debbie Pietsch's response/statement. In her response/statement, Debbie Pietsch states, that in regards to the comment with Jason Cox, she does not recall using the word "molest" and she had been ill the days prior to the incident. In regards to the intoxicated student, Debbie Pietsch states that she was unaware that admission of using a drug is considered evidence to report the student to her supervisor immediately, that she did not know that a parent allowing use of an illegal controlled substance by a child was considered abuse/neglect of a child, and she delayed full disclosure to her principal because she was ill at the time.

14. Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Title 148 governs the Washington School for the Deaf. WAC 148-120-100, Conduct violations (by students) states, in part, that a student is prohibited being visibly under the influence of any controlled substance.

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

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. OSPI has jurisdiction over Debbie Pietsch and over the subject matter of this action.
2. OSPI has shown by clear and convincing evidence that the Washington Education Certificate No. 447650C, of Debbie Pietsch, should be suspended for unprofessional conduct and/or lack of good moral character or personal fitness. RCW 28A.410.090, WAC 181-86-070, WAC 181-87-060; WAC 181-86-013; WAC 181-86-014.

ORDER

THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered and agreed that the Washington Education Certificate, No. 447650C, of Debbie Pietsch, be suspended for thirty (30) days from the date of entry of this Order.

REINSTATEMENT shall require: (1) submission of a new application, including Character and Fitness Supplement, provided by OPP and having Debbie Pietsch's fingerprints be checked by both the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Washington State Patrol (WSP); and (2) that if Debbie Pietsch education certificate expires during the period of suspension, Debbie Pietsch will show that he meets all academic requirements for renewal/reinstatement of the education certificate. Reinstatement shall also be contingent upon Debbie Pietsch fingerprint background check returning with no criminal convictions that are listed in WAC 181-86-013, RCW 28A.410.090, any felony convictions.


DATED This 10 day of July, 2012.

RANDY I. DORN
Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Washington

Stipulated to and approved
For entry; notice of presentation
waived:



Debbie Pietsch, Respondent

By: 
Alan Burke, Ed. D.
Deputy Superintendent
K-12 Education