



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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IN THE MATTER OF THE EDUCATION)	
CERTIFICATE OF)	OPP No. D21-12-035
)	
BRIAN COX)	FINAL ORDER
Certificate No. 505492R)	OF REVOCATION
_____)	

After receiving and investigating a complaint from the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (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 BRIAN COX (“Educator”) engaged in acts of unprofessional conduct to include Washington Administrative Code (“WAC”) 181-87-080, WAC 181-86-075; WAC 181-86-013(1)-(3) and RCW 28A.410.090(4), and does hereby REVOKE the Educator’s Washington Education Certificate, No. 505492R, based on the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On March 11, 2014, the Educator was issued Washington Education Certificate No. 505492R. The Educator’s certificate does not expire. Educator also held teaching certificates in Arizona and South Carolina.

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BRIAN COX
FINAL ORDER OF REVOCATION

2. The Educator’s teaching certificate was revoked in Arizona on August 10, 2021, for “unprofessional conduct” by failing to “make reasonable efforts to protect pupils from conditions harmful to learning, health or safety (Ariz. Admin. Code § R7-2-1308(A)(1); by making “any sexual advance towards a pupil or child, either verbal, written, or physical,” (Ariz. Admin. Code § R7-2-1308(b)(11); by “[engaging] in sexual activity, a romantic relationship, or dating a pupil or child” (Ariz. Admin. Code § R7-2-1308(B)(12); by “[falsifying] or misrepresent[ing] documents, records, or facts related to professional qualifications or educational history or character.” (Ariz. Admin. Code § R7-2-1308(B)(6)).

3. The Educator’s teaching certificate was also permanently revoked in South Carolina, August 9, 2022, for “Unprofessional conduct, crime against the law of the State or the United States, evident unfitness for position for which employed...” (S.C. Code Ann § 59-25-160; S.C. Code Ann Regs. 43-58.

4. On or about November 21, 2021, while the Educator was working in the Tempe Elementary School District in Tempe, Arizona, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instructions’ (OSPI) Office of Professional Practices received notice through NASDTEC, that the State of Arizona **revoked the Educator’s teaching certificate**, case #C-2020-0-01797. OPP sent certified documents to the Educator, alerting him to this matter and explaining his right to be heard prior to a final decision being made.

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5. On or about January 20, 2022, the Educator submitted a written response to the allegations made against him by OPP as well as addressing some of the issues in jurisdictions where severe behavioral and student interaction issues with the Educator had been reported (Mooresville, North Carolina; Avon, Indiana; Anchorage, Alaska; and Tempe, Arizona). The Educator denied any nefarious motivations and stated that he did not defend himself in the Arizona matter because, “it was very clear to me that [Arizona Board of Education] had made their minds up about me before I walked in the door.” The Educator admitted to including incorrect answers to work history questions in Arizona and some of the less serious allegations, such as giving a boy a necklace. He also admitted to having a sexual relation with a 16-year-old, but stated he believed the boy to be older.

6. The Educator provided OPP with two character references dated within July 2021, extolling his professional skills and willingness to work with families beyond his normally assigned duties.

II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Chapter 28A.410 Revised Code of Washington (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 WAC further implement OSPI’s authority.

2. OSPI has jurisdiction over the Educator and the subject matter of this action.

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3. Pursuant to WAC 181-86-170 and WAC 181-87-060 there is clear and convincing evidence the Educator committed acts of unprofessional conduct when he violated written provisions of the law in both Arizona and South Carolina, each of which found the Educator to have continuously engaged in inappropriate, unprofessional boundary violations, which after due process investigations, were deemed to be proved by clear and convincing evidence, resulting in his certificate to teach being revoked in both jurisdictions. It is also noted that the same behavior by the Educator was alleged in every known jurisdiction in which he has worked, including Mooresville, NC; Avon, IN; and Anchorage, AK, although the Educator appears to have moved on before any charges or investigation could commence in those particular jurisdictions. Additionally, the Educator admitted in his own written defense that he had falsified his application in Arizona to gain employment.

4. Pursuant to WAC 181-86-013 and WAC 181-86-014, there is clear and convincing evidence the Educator lacks the good moral character and/or personal fitness necessary to serve as a certificated employee in schools in the state of Washington, including the character and personal fitness to have contact with, to teach, and to perform supervision of children.

5. 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.

6. 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 181-87-080, WAC 181-86-013 and WAC 181-86-014, and 181-87-060, the Educator's education certificate should be revoked for unprofessional conduct, lack of good moral character and personal fitness, and disregard or abandonment of generally recognized professional standards.

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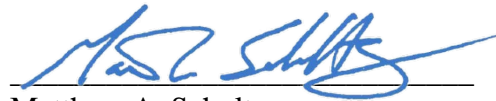
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III. ORDER

THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that the Washington Education Certificate No. 50549R of Brian Cox is **REVOKED**.

DATED this 7th day of February, 2024.

CHRIS REYKDAL
Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Washington



Matthew A. Schultz
Chief Legal and Civil Rights Officer