



STATE OF IDAHO
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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RE: Kara Smith
Professional Standards Commission Case No. 21631

LETTER OF REPRIMAND

The Professional Standards Commission, in accord with Idaho Code §§ 33-1208 and 33-1209, and the Stipulation and Consent Order in this matter, issues a formal reprimand to Kara Smith (Ms. Smith).

Ms. Smith holds the following certificates and endorsement: Standard Secondary Certificate with English 6-12 and Communication 6-12 Endorsements – effective September 1, 2014 – valid until August 31, 2019; Administrator Certificate with School Principal Pre-K-12 Endorsement – effective September 1, 2014 – valid until August 31, 2019. During the relevant time period, Ms. Smith was employed by the Coeur d’Alene School District No. 271 and served as a debate coach at Lake City High School. Ms. Smith and a female student J, exchanged electronic communications over a period of time, which including subjects pertaining to their personal life. After Lake City High School’s principal, Deanne Clifford, was made aware of these texts, she directed Ms. Smith to cease all communications with Student J, unless they related to school or debate. Ms. Smith continued her communications with Student J for a short period of time, but then ceased all further communications. Student J continued to communicate with Ms. Smith but Ms. Smith no longer communicated with Student J. The Executive Committee determined that probable cause exists for initiating an administrative action against Ms. Smith for violating the following laws and rules governing teacher certification: a. Code of Ethics Principle II (Idaho Admin. Code r. 08.02.02.076.03) (“A professional educator maintains a professional relationship with all students, both inside and outside the physical and virtual classroom.”).

Ms. Smith, although not admitting that she violated the following laws and rules governing teacher certification, acknowledges that there is sufficient evidence to support a finding of a violation of the following laws and rules governing teacher certification:

A copy of this letter of reprimand will be placed in Ms. Smith’s certification file.

DATED this 21 day of September, 2017.

IDAHO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

By: 
Elisa Saffle, Member

cc: Kara Smith, Respondent
Paul Stark, Respondent’s Counsel
Robert A. Berry, Attorney for the Chief Certification Officer

A. Stipulated Facts and Law

5. The Commission regulates teacher certification in the State of Idaho.
6. Ms. Smith holds the following certificates and endorsement:
 - a. Standard Secondary Certificate with English 6-12 and Communication 6-12 Endorsements – effective September 1, 2014 – valid until August 31, 2019.
 - b. Administrator Certificate with School Principal Pre-K-12 Endorsement – effective September 1, 2014 – valid until August 31, 2019.
7. During the relevant time period, Ms. Smith was employed by the Coeur d'Alene School District No. 271 and served as a debate coach at Lake City High School.
8. Ms. Smith and a female student J, exchanged electronic communications over a period of time, which including subjects pertaining to their personal life.
9. After Lake City High School's principal, Deanne Clifford, was made aware of these texts, she directed Ms. Smith to cease all communications with Student J, unless they related to school or debate.
10. Ms. Smith continued her communications with Student J for a short period of time, but then ceased all further communications. Student J continued to communicate with Ms. Smith but Ms. Smith no longer communicated with Student J.
9. The Executive Committee determined that probable cause exists for initiating an administrative action against Ms. Smith for violating the following laws and rules governing teacher certification:
 - a. Code of Ethics Principle II (Idaho Admin. Code r. 08.02.02.076.03) ("A professional educator maintains a professional relationship with all students, both inside and outside the physical and virtual classroom.").

STIPULATION - 2
Kara Smith