

BEFORE THE TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF OREGON

In the Matter of the)
Teaching License of)
GARY WAYNE RENVILLE, JR.)

On February 29, 1996, Gary Wayne Renville resigned his teaching position with the Salem-Keizer School District. On March 1, 1996, the superintendent of the Salem-Keizer School District notified the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission that the District was investigating whether Renville had violated TSPC ethical standards, "in particular, unauthorized use of District equipment to send and receive highly personal messages on the Internet through classroom computer equipment.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Gary Wayne Renville currently holds an Oregon Teaching License endorsed in elementary and valid from November 21, 1995 to November 11, 1998.
2. In November of 1995 Renville accessed the Internet through his classroom computer and engaged in 102 personal, private communications that violated school district policies and professional standards. Most of the communications took place during non-working hours, but 29 were transmitted during hours when students may have been present in the classroom.
3. Renville's misuse of district employment time, computers and electronic networks was initially detected because Renville's outbound messages were returned to the district's postmaster. A routine usage audit indicated excessive e-mail transmissions from the computer in Renville's classroom. The disclosure of Renville's private and personal communications on the Internet was damaging to Renville's reputation and showed a lack of professional judgment.
4. When the school district questioned Renville about his use of the District computers he was cooperative, candid, and honest in responding to the District's questions and investigation.
5. On February 28, 1996, Renville and the District entered into an agreement for Renville's resignation effective February 29, 1996.

ULTIMATE FINDINGS OF FACT

Gary Wayne Renville demonstrated a lack of judgment in how he used school district computers and how he communicated on the Internet.

1 CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

2 Gary Wayne Renville's conduct as described above, constitutes gross neglect of duty in knowing and
3 substantial use of school resources and equipment for personal purposes under OAR 584-20-040(4)
4 and a failure to use professional judgment under OAR 584-20-010(5).

5 DISCUSSION

6 Renville's conduct is inconsistent with the high standards he otherwise met as a teacher in the Salem-
7 Keizer School District. His error in judgment in use of the Internet has damaged his reputation and
8 has resulted in a violation of Commission standards. As mitigating factors, Renville had an exemplary
9 teaching record in the District; he was cooperative and honest in responding to the District's
10 investigation; and he has shown genuine remorse. The Commission accepts the effective date of the
11 suspension because Mr. Renville originally proposed a stipulation on June 10, 1996, however, the
12 proposal was held in abeyance until the Commission completed its investigation of the allegations.

13 ORDER

14 The Oregon Basic Teaching License endorsed in elementary #271928 issued to Gary Wayne Renville,
15 Jr. and effective from November 21, 1995 to November 18, 1998, is suspended for one year as of
16 May 31, 1996.

17 DATED THIS 1st day of September, 1997.

18 TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

19 By: 
20 David V. Myton, Executive Secretary

21 NOTICE OF APPEAL OR RIGHTS

22 YOU ARE ENTITLED TO JUDICIAL REVIEW OF THIS ORDER. JUDICIAL REVIEW MAY BE
23 OBTAINED BY FILING A PETITION FOR REVIEW WITHIN 60 DAYS FROM THE SERVICE
24 OF THIS ORDER. JUDICIAL REVIEW IS PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ORS 183.482
25 TO THE OREGON COURT OF APPEALS.