

STATE OF MISSOURI)
)
COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS)

AFFIDAVIT OF JOHN SHAUGHNESSY

Comes now John Shaughnessy, and being duly sworn upon his oath states:

1. I am an adult over 21 years of age, a resident of the State of Missouri, and of sound mind.

2. The facts stated in this affidavit are based upon my personal knowledge and my review of records maintained by the Rockwood Board of Education ("Rockwood") in the ordinary course of business.

3. I am employed by Rockwood and have been so employed for four years. I am presently the principal of the Lafayette High School within Rockwood.

4. L. G. is a tenth grade student at Lafayette.

5. During November 2007, he surreptitiously took several photographs of one of his classroom teachers without authorization or permission. Two of his classmates were aware that he was taking photos, positioned themselves next to the teacher and acted out and posed for the photographs. This conduct occurred during class time. The students' were off-task and joking around rather than paying attention. Such conduct is disruptive to the educational environment.

6. The teacher was completely unaware that the photos were being taken.

7. L. G posted some of these photographs on the website known as Facebook.

8. A student in the same class where the photos were taken saw the photos on the Facebook website and informed the teacher. There was considerable discussion of the photographs and loss of classroom instruction time. The educational environment was substantially disrupted. The word of the photographs spread to other classrooms and was discussed in these classrooms as well.



9. The classroom teacher is deeply troubled by the taking of the photographs.
10. The teacher has reported difficulty in teaching the class, difficulty in focusing on her lessons. She is very upset and worried over the photographs and believes her trust has been violated. She has met with two grade-level principals, the Human Resources office, the National Education Association, and a family attorney over the photographs.
11. The student who reported seeing the photos has been openly criticized and harassed in class causing even further classroom disruption.
12. Rockwood has a written discipline policy. The discipline policy is implemented through Board of Education policies, regulations and administrative guidelines. As part of its written discipline policy, the Rockwood Board of Education publishes and distributes a booklet entitled Policies, Regulations, Procedures and Consequences discussing student misconduct and consequences for such misconduct. A copy of the booklet is attached hereto as Exhibit A.
13. Among other things this booklet prohibits disruptive speech or conduct --conduct or verbal, written or symbolic language, which materially and substantial disrupts classroom work, school activities or school functions. The First offense is punishable by up to ten (10) days out-of-school suspension.
14. The grade level principal, Dr. Mehrotra informed L.G. of the pending charge and gave him an opportunity to present his view relating to the charge. Dr. Mehrotra met with L.G. and his parents.
15. L.G. was suspended for three school days commencing December 10, 2007.
16. During his suspension, L.G. may receive homework assignments to stay current on his school assignments.

Further, affiant sayeth not.

John Shughnessy
John Shughnessy

Subscribed and sworn to me before me this 11th day of December, 2007.

Betsy Jean Zieseniss
Notary

My Commission expires:

2/18/2009

BETSY JEAN ZIESENISS
NOTARY PUBLIC - NOTARY SEAL
STATE OF MISSOURI
ST LOUIS COUNTY
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 2/18/2009
COMMISSION #05622784

