



Friday, August 14, 2009

Police: Clarkston teacher sent sexual photos to student

Santiago Esparza / The Detroit News

A former Clarkston Schools teacher is free on bond, awaiting trial on claims she sent sexual text messages and partially nude photos to a 14-year-old former student.

Sheriff's officials claim Michelle Simonson, 28, of Oxford Township sent about 50 sexually explicit messages to a boy she taught at Sashabaw Middle School in Independence Township during the last school year. Her resignation as a special-education teacher was effective today, the same day she was arraigned in 52-2 District Court on enticing a minor for immoral purposes and distributing sexually explicit material to a minor. The charges could imprison her for four years.

The boy told authorities on July 21 he was uneasy about the increasingly explicit nature of the texts and wanted her to stop. The boy said they did not have sex or direct conversations, sheriff's officials said.

An investigation into the allegations was started in June after social workers informed the sheriff's office of unconfirmed reports of an improper relationship between the boy and Simonson, sheriff's officials said.

Clarkston Community Schools officials say Simonson had taught at the middle school for two years. "Based on the information we have from the police department, it appears this person violated a sacred trust with students," Superintendent Al Roberts said. "She will be held accountable for her actions. We have an obligation to protect students. Our district has no tolerance for these types of actions. She will not be back with us next fall."

Simonson faces trial because she waived her right to a preliminary exam. She has no criminal record or previous contact with law enforcement, police said.

Bond was set at \$1,500.

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