



## NEWS

## Oklahoma City School District Hires Drag Queen Elementary School Principal Once Arrested For Possessing Child Porn and Illicit Drugs

By Debra Heine



September 1, 2023

A

“drag” performer arrested 22 years ago for possessing both child pornography and illicit drugs has been hired to be the school principal of an Oklahoma City elementary school, and the school district is defending its decision.

“Meet Shane Murnan- elementary principal at [@wh\\_isd](#).

*Shane is a drag queen who performs for children and reads books about gender to kids while dressed in drag.*

*Shane was also previously arrested on child porn charges.*

*Would you want this person in charge of your kid’s school? [pic.twitter.com/yNuZyt3HRK](#)*

*— Libs of TikTok (@libsoftiktok) [August 30, 2023](#)”*

Dr. Shane Brent Murnan, 52, the new elementary school principal at John Glenn Elementary, had his personal devices confiscated by police in 2001 on suspicion of possession of child pornography, [V1SUT](#) reported on Substack. Almost 20 years later, he was investigated for another crime, according to a 2020 court filing.

Police arrested the then-30-year-old in August 2001 after a Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) search recovered four deleted images of children engaged in sex acts, according to court records. Police also found 6 grams of marijuana in his home. Murnan, at the time, was a fifth-grade teacher at Stillwater’s Will Rogers Elementary School. After the arrest, school officials suspended Murnan and he resigned in May 2002.

“From there, some unexplainable legal wrangling began in which Payne County Special Judge [Phillip Corley](#) ruled that prosecutors had not proven Murnan had possessed child pornography, claiming it could not be definitively proven the children in the photos were underage,” [V1SUT](#) reported.

Payne County prosecutors appealed Corley's decision and prevailed in the Payne County Appeals Court.

In direct contradiction to the earlier ruling, Appeals Court Judge Dave Allen stated in his decision: "It is clear from a review of the pictures that they do represent child pornography".

Later on, however, Payne County District Judge Donald L. Worthington reversed the reversal, dismissing the child porn charge.

*"Payne County prosecutors gave up, choosing not to appeal. In the end, it appears there was never any disagreement about the existence of the pornographic photos on Murnan's computer, yet the charge was dropped. Was this a behind-the-scenes plea agreement to allow Murnan to accept only the drug charge (marijuana) and retain his teaching certificate?"*

Murnan's record was expunged in October of 2003 after his short probation period on the drug charge. He spent the next several years creating his "Shantel Mandalay" persona and entering crossdressing pageants such as Miss Gay Oklahoma, VISUT reported.



## Shantel Mandalay Phoenix Rising Show 9-21-12



Last April, he posted a picture of himself dressed like the Easter Bunny on his “Shantel Mandalay” Facebook page with a message about his previous bad choices and the joys of being an educator.



On his drag queen [Facebook page](#), Murnan posts many pictures of himself in and out of drag cavorting with other drag queens and young homosexuals at drag events and in gay bars.



“When my little sister wants a present for her birthday, I do my best to make it happen,” Murnan wrote in the caption for the picture below.

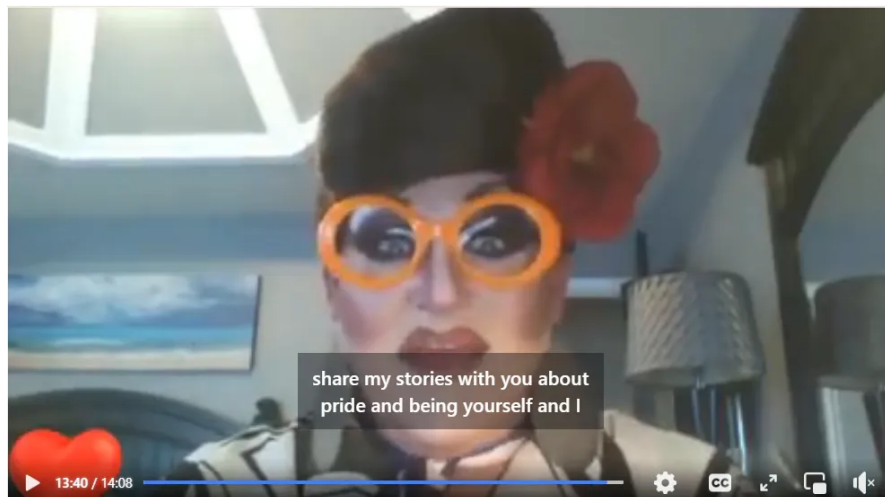


From 2007-2015, Murnan was back in the classroom, teaching at a small elementary School in Norman, Oklahoma, VISUT reported. From there, he moved to the much larger Oklahoma City Public Schools district as teacher, teacher trainer/instructional coach, and eventually assistant principal at Prairie Queen Elementary School.

*"Prairie Queen is an underperforming school that serves a population that is 82.3 percent Hispanic and 96.5 percent economically disadvantaged. Most parents speak limited English and 69 percent of students are English language learners. These are vulnerable kids."*

In 2018, Murnan reportedly cofounded Oklahoma City Drag Queen Story Hour, Inc. and began promoting the child-grooming library events throughout the state.

The organization teamed with the Oklahoma City Metropolitan Library System during the COVID pandemic and Murnan's Shantel Mandalay persona was featured online reading to a target audience of young children through the library's [Facebook events](#).





In September of 2020, during Murnan's time at Prairie Queen Elementary School, the state entered a [Criminal Probable Cause Initial Filing](#) for an undisclosed crime with Murnan as the defendant. That case was assigned to Judge Kevin C. McCray.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR OKLAHOMA COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

State of Oklahoma v. MURNAN, SHANE BRENT

No. CPC-2020-7199  
(Criminal Probable Cause)  
  
Filed: 09/25/2020  
  
Judge: McCray, Kevin C.

PARTIES

MURNAN, SHANE BRENT, Defendant  
STATE OF OKLAHOMA, Plaintiff

ATTORNEYS

None

EVENTS

None

COUNTS

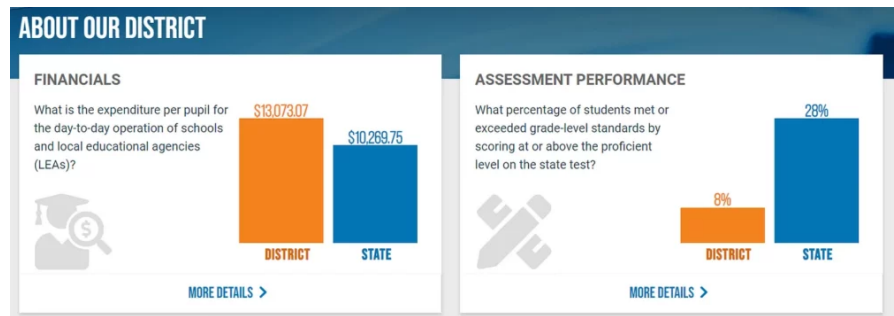
Parties appear only under the counts with which they were charged. For complete sentence information, see the court minute on the docket.

DOCKET

Date	Code	Description	Party	Count	Amount
09-25-2020	[TEXT]	CRIMINAL PROBABLE CAUSE INITIAL FILING	MURNAN, SHANE BRENT	#1	
09-25-2020	[APPC]	AFFIDAVIT FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE [APPROVED] JUDGE MCCRAY Document Available at Court Clerk's Office	MURNAN, SHANE BRENT		
09-25-2020	[TEXT]	OCIS HAS AUTOMATICALLY ASSIGNED JUDGE MCCRAY, KEVIN C. TO THIS CASE			

Now, three years later, the Oklahoma City Public Schools district hired Murnan to be in charge of John Glenn Elementary School in the Western Heights School District (WHSD) in the southwest part of the OKC metro area.

*“The district of approximately 2,750 students has been in turmoil since 2021 when the state temporarily took over due to years of financial mismanagement and noncompliance. To simplify, the district gets a lot of funds, spends significantly more than the state average and continues to fail children.”*



The student population at John Glenn Elementary School is “majority Hispanic, English language learners and overwhelmingly economically disadvantaged,” according to V1SUT.

In a letter to the school's parents, Brayden Savage, superintendent of Western Heights Public Schools, addressed the district's controversial hiring decision.

“I am writing to address a concern you may read about on social media,” Savage wrote in the letter obtained by the Daily Caller. “We understand the situation may cause concerns and questions among parents, staff, and community members.”

According to news reports at the time, those charges were dismissed by the court, and the record of the charges has been expunged,” the letter continues. “Since that time, Dr. Murnan has continued to be certified as an elementary school teacher and principal, including having his certificate renewed in April of 2023 and signed by State Superintendent Ryan Walters. The State Department of Education would have conducted another felony background check upon renewing his certification.”

Savage said that at the time of “recommendation,” the district gave its school board “all of the information” it had regarding Murnan and the board then voted to approve his hiring.

He told parents that the district followed “usual hiring practices” in vetting Murnan, checking references and conducting a felony criminal background check.

“Please know we are aware of the situation and handling this matter with the utmost attention and care,” Savage wrote.

In a statement to [Crisis in the Classroom \(CITC\)](#) Thursday, the Oklahoma State Department of Education said “anything that might expose kids to inappropriate sexual content at school is cause for serious concern to parents,” and that the department is “looking into all accusations and will take any necessary action to protect kids.”

Oklahoma State Superintendent Ryan Walters issued a strong statement on X Friday condemning WHSD’s hiring of Murnan.

“This is completely unacceptable,” Walters said. “We know that radical gender theory has been a direct assault on our kids and we can’t allow this in our schools.”

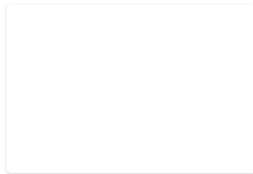
The superintendent said school districts need to do a better job vetting educators to make sure they reflect “Oklahoma values.”

“No one want’s to send their kid to school knowing that they could be exposed to this radical gender theory in any capacity,” he added. “This woke war on our kids has to stop.”

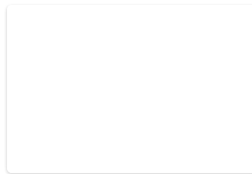
*“Drag queens in schools do not = Oklahoma values. [pic.twitter.com/XQzpNIUnLw](https://pic.twitter.com/XQzpNIUnLw)*

*— Superintendent Ryan Walters (@RyanWaltersSupt) [September 1, 2023](#)”*

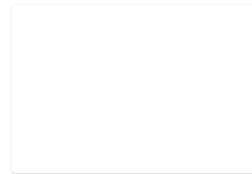
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