

# Former principal waives prelim



A judge Friday bound over for trial the former Mauston school principal charged last year with possession of child pornography after he waived his right to a preliminary hearing in Juneau County Circuit Court.

Thomas Reisenauer, 59, faces a possibility of 25 years in prison and a fine of up to \$100,000 on each of the 11 pornography charges against him.

At a preliminary hearing, a judge determines whether there is enough evidence to require a trial, usually after testimony from police, victims or witnesses.

Judge Paul Curran ordered Reisenauer bound over for trial after he waived his right to the hearing but did not set a date for a plea hearing because Marcus Berghahn, Reisenauer's attorney, filed a motion for a new judge in the case.

Requests for substitute judges are relatively common and defense attorneys generally do not need to provide a reason for the requests.

Before granting the motion for substitution, Curran also made a minor modification in the terms of Reisenauer's bond to allow him to leave the state to visit one or more adult children. District Attorney Scott Southworth did not oppose the motion to modify bond.

Reisenauer, who was in court Friday, is free on \$10,000 cash bond. He was charged last July following months of investigation. He had been placed on administrative leave from his position as principal of Olson Middle School the previous March for alleged misuse of the school district's Internet policy. He resigned April 19, 2010.

According to the criminal complaint, school officials discovered nearly 4,000 websites flagged by the school's Internet filter as inappropriate and possibly pornographic.

Reisenauer told investigators that he had an addiction to pornography, according to the criminal complaint. The alleged criminal images found on a laptop computer in his school office depicted underage girls.

Investigators determined that the pictures had been downloaded from the Internet and did not depict local children.

**SOURCE:**

[http://www.wiscnews.com/juneaucountystartimes/news/local/crime\\_and\\_courts/article\\_806f2fa2-6231-11e0-b133-001cc4c03286.html](http://www.wiscnews.com/juneaucountystartimes/news/local/crime_and_courts/article_806f2fa2-6231-11e0-b133-001cc4c03286.html)