



Antioch teacher pleads innocent to sex charges

November 10, 2009

Publication: News Sun, The (Waukegan, IL)

Section: LOCAL

Page: 2

News-Sun Staff Report

An Antioch Upper Grade School teacher accused of sexual relations with an underage girl was back in court Monday.

Wes Owens, 52, of Solon Mills pleaded not guilty to seven counts of criminal sexual abuse and aggravated criminal sexual abuse in McHenry County court.

Last month he denied similar charges involving the same girl during arraignment in Lake County Circuit Court. That case is continuing.

The Antioch School District placed Owens on administrative leave in September after he was arrested and charged in both Lake and McHenry counties.

Owens, who taught sixth- and seventh-grade language arts at the school, was taken into custody after police were told he had a relationship with a student that began in 1997. Authorities said the alleged victim was 15 years old at the time.

Police charged him with two counts of criminal sexual assault and two counts of aggravated criminal sexual abuse.

If convicted in both counties, Owens could be sentenced to up to 60 years in prison. He is scheduled to appear again in McHenry County court on Dec. 21.