

**BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

In the Matter of the Revocation or )  
Suspension of the Educator Certificate of )  
John N. Sewell, )  
Certificate 202231 )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

**CONSENT ORDER OF PERMANENT  
VOLUNTARY SURRENDER**

**SUMMARY OF THE CASE**

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on November 10, 2015. On August 25, 2015, in accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2004), § 59-5-10 (2004), and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) requested that the Chair of the State Board summarily suspend the educator certificate of John N. Sewell, certificate 202231, as a result of his unprofessional conduct involving inappropriate communications of a sexual nature, via text messages including pictures, to several current and former students. The SCDE sent notice to Mr. Sewell on August 25, 2015. Mr. Sewell received the notice as evidenced by a signed postal receipt and letter from his attorney. Mr. Sewell, by and through counsel, informed the SCDE that he desired to waive his right to a hearing and enter into a Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender of his educator certificate 202231, effective November 10, 2015.

John N. Sewell 202231 <i>JS</i> Initial Here <u>10-5-15</u> Date
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**FINDINGS OF FACT**

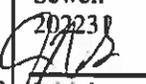
The State Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004) and S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004).

Mr. Sewell was employed by the Spartanburg County School District Six (District) as a mathematics teacher at Dorman High School (School) from 2003 until his resignation, effective September 4, 2015. On August 18, 2015, a former student presented the School Principal with text messages between himself and Mr. Sewell, beginning in September 2014 and continuing until August 2015. The District learned that Mr. Sewell sent inappropriate and sexual text messages and pictures to both current and former students. Mr. Sewell admitted his conduct to the District's administration and subsequently resigned from his employment.

On August 25, 2015, in accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2004), § 59-5-10 (2004), and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) requested that the Chair of the State Board summarily suspended Mr.

Sewell's educator certificate as a result of his unprofessional conduct involving inappropriate communications of a sexual nature, via text messages including pictures, to several current and former students. The SCDE sent notice to Mr. Sewell on August 25, 2015. Mr. Sewell received the notice as evidenced by a signed postal receipt and letter from his attorney. Mr. Sewell, by and through counsel, informed the SCDE that he desired to waive his right to a hearing and enter into a Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender of his educator certificate 202231, effective November 10, 2015.

Mr. Sewell agrees to the permanent surrender of his South Carolina educator certificate 202231 subject to the following conditions: (1) his educator certificate will become permanently invalid and permanently revoked immediately upon the approval by the State Board of the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender; (2) he has waived his right to a hearing and understands that the terms set forth are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review; and (3) he understands that the permanent surrender of his educator certificate will be reported to all school districts in South Carolina and the NASDTEC Clearinghouse as a permanent voluntary surrender and permanent revocation.

John N. Sewell 202231

Initial Here
10-5-15 Date

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct, immorality, and evident unfitness for position for which employed. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE demonstrates that Mr. Sewell engaged in unprofessional conduct, immorality, and demonstrated evident unfitness for position for which employed as a result of his inappropriate communications with several current and former students.

The evidence presented supports the State Board's decision to accept the permanent voluntary surrender of educator certificate 202231, issued under the name of John N. Sewell, and to permanently revoke and render permanently invalid Mr. Sewell's educator certificate, effective November 10, 2015.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender is accepted and the educator certificate of John N. Sewell, certificate 202231, is hereby declared permanently invalid and permanently revoked. The permanent voluntary surrender and revocation of the educator certificate of John N. Sewell, certificate 202231, shall be reported to

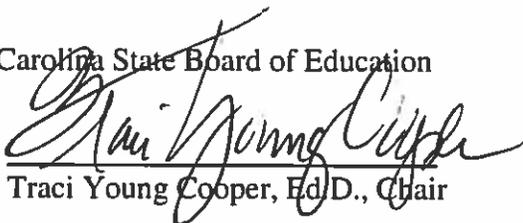
Sewell, John N., Certificate 202231  
Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender  
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the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

**AND IT IS SO ORDERED.**

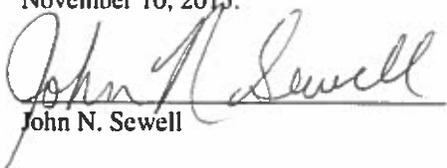
South Carolina State Board of Education

By:

  
Traci Young Cooper, Ed.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina  
November 10, 2015

I, John N. Sewell, S.C. Educator Certificate 202231, understand there has been an investigation concerning alleged violations of the laws and regulations governing the practice of education certificate holders and that I have waived my right to a hearing in this matter. I understand that the terms set forth in this Consent Agreement are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review; and I hereby freely, knowingly and voluntarily permanently surrender my educator certificate to the South Carolina State Board of Education. I hereby acknowledge that this permanent surrender shall have the same effect as a permanent revocation of my certificate. I knowingly forfeit and relinquish all right, title and privilege of holding myself out as and being able to practice as an educator in the public schools in the State of South Carolina. I agree that I will not serve or be employed as an educator, paraprofessional, aide, substitute teacher, band teacher, coach, or in any other position in a public school in the State of South Carolina. I agree to the proposed Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the South Carolina State Board of Education on November 10, 2015.

  
John N. Sewell

10-5-15  
Date