

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension)
)
or Revocation of the Educator)
)
Certificate of Brent Blackwell)
)
Certificate 236068)

**CONSENT ORDER OF
VOLUNTARY SURRENDER**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

This matter comes before the South Carolina State Board of Education (hereinafter "State Board") on August 13, 2014. On March 25, 2013, the South Carolina Department of Education (hereinafter "SCDE") sent a notice letter of the possible suspension or revocation of South Carolina educator certificate 236068 to Brent Blackwell by certified mail, return receipt requested, based on the grounds of unprofessional conduct. Mr. Blackwell received the notice letter and requested a hearing, but subsequently agreed to waive the hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Voluntary Surrender. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Voluntary Surrender, effective on August 13, 2014.

Brent Blackwell 236068 <u>BB</u> Initial Here <u>7/18/14</u> Date

FINDINGS OF FACT

Brent Blackwell was employed as a teacher at J.L. Mann High School (hereinafter "School") in Greenville County School District (hereinafter "District") during the 2011-2012 school year. During this period, the District became aware that Mr. Blackwell had violated school policy by failing to report an arrest to his employer. Mr. Blackwell resigned from his position with the District in lieu of termination.

Mr. Blackwell does not wish to return to teaching, and therefore waives his right to a hearing and enters into this Consent Order of Voluntary Surrender.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept this Consent Order of Voluntary Surrender, effective on August 13, 2014. The surrender of Mr. Blackwell's educator certificate shall be reported to all school districts in South Carolina and the NASDTEC Clearinghouse within thirty days of this order with the reasons stated as "unprofessional conduct."

Brent
Blackwell
236068

BB

Initial Here

7/18/14

Date

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board, upon careful review of the evidence presented, makes the following conclusions of law in this matter:

- (1) The State Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004), which provides "The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, revoke or suspend the certificate of any person."
- (2) Just cause is statutorily defined to include "Unprofessional conduct." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160(4) (2004).
- (3) The evidence demonstrates that Mr. Blackwell committed unprofessional conduct by violating clear District policies regarding self-reporting arrests.
- (4) The evidence presented supports the State Board's decision to accept the voluntary surrender of the educator certificate of Brent Blackwell, certificate 236068, effective August 13, 2014.

NOW THEREFORE, it is ordered that the State Board accepts the Consent Order and the educator certificate of Brent Blackwell, certificate 236068, is hereby surrendered. This action on certificate 236068 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order with the reasons stated as "unprofessional conduct."

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AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: _____
Barry F. Bolen, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
August 13, 2014

I, Brent Blackwell, S.C. Educator Certificate 236068, hereby waive my right to a hearing in this matter. With the assistance of legal counsel, I have read and understood the terms set forth in this Consent Order. I agree that the findings of facts and conclusions of law contained in this Consent Order are true. I understand that the terms of this Consent Order, upon execution, are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. I hereby freely, knowingly and of my own accord, agree to voluntarily surrender my educator certificate to the South Carolina State Board of Education. I understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board on August 13, 2014.

Brent Blackwell
Brent Blackwell

7/18/14
Date

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