

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation)
and Voluntary Surrender of the)
Educator Certificate of)
Lauren Taylor Hunter)
Certificate 193448)

CONSENT ORDER OF VOLUNTARY SURRENDER

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on December 10, 2014. On February 19, 2014, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice to Lauren Taylor Hunter of the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. On November 7, 2014, Ms. Hunter’s attorney accepted service of the notice on behalf of Ms. Hunter. On November 10, 2014, Ms. Hunter’s attorney informed the SCDE that Ms. Hunter desired to waive her right to a hearing and agreed to the Voluntary Surrender of her educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Lauren Taylor Hunter holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate and has over 14 years of teaching experience as a speech-language therapist in South Carolina. She has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Ms. Hunter began her employment with Horry School District (District) in 1999.

During the 2012-2013 school year, Ms. Hunter served as a speech-language therapist at Pee Dee Elementary (School). During the seven years prior to the spring semester of 2013, Ms. Hunter was employed by the District for six years as a full time speech-language therapist pre-school assessor, which was not a school-based, service provider position. For the final year prior to her assignment to the School, the District employed Ms. Hunter as a speech-language therapist pre-school assessor for three days a week and in a school for two days a week. The District conducted an investigation into allegations that Ms. Hunter was failing to provide speech language services to students. According to the review, Ms. Hunter failed to provide speech language therapy for several students as detailed in the students’ Individual Education Programs (IEP), filed incomplete and untimely Medicaid documents,

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Date:
Lauren Taylor Hunter
193448

and failed to collect consistent data to create logs required for Medicaid billing. Ms. Hunter admits that during the spring semester of 2013, while employed as a speech-language therapist at the school, she failed to fully, properly and accurately document therapy sessions, and inaccurately documented therapy sessions that were not conducted. On September 23, 2013, Ms. Hunter resigned from her employment with the District.

In lieu of a hearing regarding this unprofessional conduct, Ms. Hunter agrees to waive her right to a hearing and consents to the Voluntary Surrender of her educator certificate 193448. Ms. Hunter waives her right to a hearing and acknowledges that the terms set forth herein are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review, and that the Voluntary Surrender of her educator certificate in the academic area of speech-language therapist will be reported to all school districts in South Carolina and the NASDTEC Clearinghouse.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

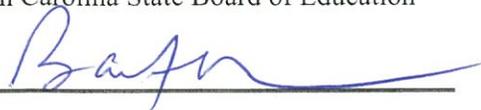
The State Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004). “The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (Rev. 2004), S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). Just cause includes “unprofessional conduct.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004) 2 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2011). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Ms. Hunter, while employed as a speech language pathologist at the school, engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of her failing to fully, properly and accurately document therapy sessions, and her inaccurately documenting therapy sessions that were not conducted and that just cause exists to accept the voluntary surrender of her educator certificate 193448 in the academic area of speech-language therapist.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the Consent Order of Voluntary Surrender of the educator certificate of Lauren Taylor Hunter, certificate 193448, is hereby accepted. The Voluntary Surrender of Ms. Hunter’s educator certificate 193448 in the academic area of speech-language therapist shall be reported to 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: _____



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<u>11-19-14</u>

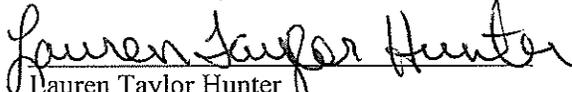
Date

Lauren Taylor Hunter 193448

Barry F. Bolen, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
December 10, 2014

I, Lauren Taylor Hunter, S.C. Educator Certificate 193448, understand that 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 Order of Voluntary Surrender are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. I hereby freely, knowingly and voluntarily surrender my educator certificate to the South Carolina State Board of Education. I knowingly forfeit and relinquish all right, title and privilege of holding myself out as a speech-language therapist in the public schools in the State of South Carolina. I agree to the terms of the proposed Consent Order of Voluntary Surrender, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the South Carolina State Board of Education on December 10, 2014.


Lauren Taylor Hunter

11-12-2014
Date