

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Voluntary)
Surrender of the Educator)
Certificate of Grayson Andrew Porter)
Certificate 257634)

**CONSENT ORDER OF
PERMANENT VOLUNTARY
SURRENDER**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on March 12, 2014. On December 19, 2013, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice to Mr. Grayson Andrew Porter that the State Board would meet to make a determination regarding the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate 257634 based on the statutory grounds of unprofessional conduct and evident unfitness for position for which employed, pursuant to S.C. Code § 59-25-160 (Rev. 2004) and that he was entitled to a hearing. Mr. Porter received the notice and informed the SCDE that he desired to waive his right to a hearing and to enter into a Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender of his educator certificate 257634, effective March 12, 2014.

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

Mr. Porter holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate and has one year of teaching experience. Mr. Porter was employed by the Oconee County School District (District) as a teacher at West Oak High School. Mr. Porter resigned from his position on with the District October 8, 2013, following allegations that he engaged in inappropriate communication with a female student via text messages.

On October 3, 2013, the District was informed that Mr. Porter had been inappropriately communicating with a female student via text messages. On October 4, 2013, the District placed Mr. Porter on administrative leave. District personnel met with Mr. Porter on October 8, 2013. Subsequently, Mr. Porter submitted his resignation to the District. On December 19, 2013, the SCDE sent notice to Mr. Porter that the State Board would meet

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to make a determination regarding the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate 257634 based on the statutory grounds of unprofessional conduct and evident unfitness for position for which employed, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004) and that he was entitled to a hearing. Mr. Porter received the notice and informed 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 257634, effective March 12, 2014.

Mr. Porter agrees to the permanent surrender of his South Carolina educator certificate 257634 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 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 with the reason stated as “unprofessional conduct.”

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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 (Rev. 2004); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (Rev. 2004). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct, and evident unfitness for position for which employed.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (Rev. 2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs 43-58 (Supp. 2011). The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE demonstrates that Mr. Porter engaged in unprofessional conduct and demonstrated evident unfitness for position for which employed as a result of his inappropriate communication with a female student. The evidence presented supports the State Board’s decision to accept the permanent voluntary surrender of educator certificate 257634, issued under the name of Grayson A. Porter, and to permanently revoke and render permanently invalid Mr. Porter’s educator certificate effective March 12, 2014.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender is accepted and the educator certificate of Grayson A. Porter, certificate 257634, is hereby declared permanently invalid and permanently revoked. The

permanent voluntary surrender and revocation of the educator certificate of Grayson A. Porter, certificate 257634 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:



Barry F. Bolen, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
March 12, 2014

I, Grayson Andrew Porter, S.C. Educator Certificate 257634, 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 as a volunteer 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 March 12, 2014.



Grayson Andrew Porter

3/4/14

Date