

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension)
)
or Revocation of the Educator)
)
Certificate of Mark A. Eppolito)
)
Certificate 222146)

**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 August May 5, 2014, the South Carolina Department of Education (hereinafter "SCDE") sent a notice letter of the possible suspension or revocation of South Carolina of educator certificate 222146 to Mark A. Eppolito by certified mail, return receipt requested, based on the grounds of unprofessional conduct. Mr. Eppolito 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.

Mark A. Eppolito 222146
<u>MAE</u> Initial Here
<u>8/4/2014</u> Date

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mark A. Eppolito was employed as a teacher at Sampit Elementary School (hereinafter "School") in Georgetown County School District (hereinafter "District") during the 2013-2014 school year.

During an audit of its educator certification files, the SCDE discovered a discrepancy between NASDTEC Clearinghouse records and information Mr. Eppolito had provided to the District in an employment application regarding his previous

employment. Following a District inquiry into the matter, Mr. Eppolito resigned from his position on April 7, 2014.

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

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. Eppolito'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."

Mark A.
Eppolito
222146

MAE
Initial Here

8/13/2014
Date

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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

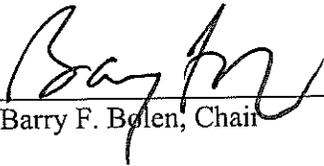
- (1) The State Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004), which provides "The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, revoke or suspend the certificate of any person."
- (2) Just cause is statutorily defined to include "Unprofessional conduct." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160(4) (2004).
- (3) The evidence demonstrates that Mr. Eppolito committed unprofessional conduct by providing inaccurate or incomplete information to the District regarding his employment history.
- (4) The evidence presented supports the State Board's decision to accept the voluntary surrender of the educator certificate of Mark A. Eppolito, certificate 222146, effective August 13, 2014.

NOW THEREFORE, it is ordered that the State Board accepts the Consent Order and the educator certificate of Mark A. Eppolito, certificate 222146, is hereby surrendered. This action on certificate 222146 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."

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By:

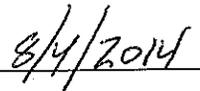

Barry F. Bolen, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
August 13, 2014

I, Mark A. Eppolito, S.C. Educator Certificate 222146, 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.


Mark A. Eppolito

Date


8/14/2014