BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Voluntary	)	
	)	
Surrender of the Educator	)	**CONSENT ORDER OF PERMANENT VOLUNTARY SURRENDER**
	)	
Certificate of Leslie L. Jester III	)	
	)	
Certificate 229685	)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on April 9, 2014. On February 19, 2014, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice to Leslie L. Jester, III that the State Board would meet to make a determination regarding disciplinary action of his South Carolina educator certificate based on the provisions of S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (Rev. 2004), for unprofessional conduct. Mr. Jester received the notice on February 22, 2014, as evidenced by a signed postal receipt bearing his signature. On February 24, 2014, Mr. Jester informed the SCDE that he desired to seek an alternative resolution to this matter and agreed to enter into a Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender of his educator certificate 229685, effective April 9, 2014.

Leslie L. Jester III 229685
LLJ
Initial here
3-31-14
Date

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

Mr. Jester holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate and has thirty nine years of teaching experience in North and South Carolina. Mr. Jester was employed by the Fort Mill School District (District) from April 5, 2007, until his resignation from the District effective November 22, 2013. Mr. Jester was teaching Physical Education at Fort Mill Middle School (School) prior to his resignation.

On October 7, 2013, the District was notified of an allegation that Mr. Jester had inappropriate contact with two male students at the School. The District immediately began investigating the matter and placed Mr. Jester on administrative leave on October 7, 2013. On October 21, 2013, the District notified Mr. Jester of its intent to terminate

his employment based on its investigative findings in conjunction with a prior incident involving Mr. Jester when he had allegedly engaged in inappropriate conduct while interacting with students at the School in January 2012. Although Mr. Jester denied all allegations, he voluntarily resigned from the District on November 22, 2013, and retired from teaching.

On February 19, 2014, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice to Leslie L. Jester, III that the State Board would meet to make a determination regarding disciplinary action of his South Carolina educator certificate based on the provisions of S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (Rev. 2004), for unprofessional conduct. Mr. Jester received the notice on February 22, 2014, as evidenced by a signed postal receipt bearing his signature. On February 24, 2014, Mr. Jester informed the SCDE that he desired to seek an alternative resolution to this matter and agreed to enter into a Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender of his educator certificate 229685, effective April 9, 2014.

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Mr. Jester agrees to the permanent surrender of his South Carolina educator certificate 229685 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.

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 (2011). The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE demonstrates that Mr. Jester engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of his alleged inappropriate contact with students at Fort Mill Middle School. The evidence

presented supports the State Board's decision to accept the permanent voluntary surrender of educator certificate 229685, issued under the name of Leslie L. Jester III, and to permanently revoke and render permanently invalid Mr. Jester's educator certificate effective April 9, 2014.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender is accepted and the educator certificate of Leslie L. Jester III, certificate 229685, is hereby declared permanently invalid and permanently revoked. The permanent voluntary surrender and revocation of the educator certificate of Leslie L. Jester III, certificate 229685 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
April 9, 2014

I, Leslie L. Jester III, S.C. Educator Certificate 229685, 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 to the proposed Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender, consisting of four pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the South Carolina State Board of Education on April 9, 2014.

Leslie L. Jester III
Leslie L. Jester III

March 31, 2014
Date