

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Voluntary)
Surrender of the Educator)
Certificate of Sherri M. Windsor)
Certificate 141739)
_____)

**CONSENT ORDER OF
PERMANENT
VOLUNTARY SURRENDER**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on September 10, 2014. On August 28, 2013, in accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2004), § 59-5-10 (Rev. 2004), and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) requested that the Chair of the State Board summarily suspend the educator certificate of Sherri M. Windsor, certificate 141739, as a result of her arrest on August 8, 2013, in Greenville County, South Carolina and being charged with Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor; Committing a Lewd Act upon a Child under 16 years old; and Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor, second degree, (victim 11 to 14 years old). The SCDE sent notice to Ms. Windsor on August 28, 2013. On August 31, 2013, Ms. Windsor received the notice as evidenced by a signed postal receipt. On September 10, 2013, Ms. Windsor contacted the SCDE and informed the SCDE that she desired a hearing after the resolution of her criminal charges. On May 14, 2014, Ms. Windsor pled guilty to Assault and Battery of a High and Aggravated Nature and the original three charges were dismissed. Following the resolution of the criminal charges against Ms. Windsor, she agreed to waive her right to a hearing and to enter into a Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender of her educator certificate 141739, effective September 10, 2014.

Sherri M. Windsor 141739
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<u>8-27-14</u> Date

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

Ms. Windsor holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate and has 28 years of teaching experience. She has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State

Board. Ms. Windsor had been employed by the Greenville County School District (District) since 1990. Until her resignation from the District, Ms. Windsor was employed as a teacher and Athletic Director at Blue Ridge High School (School). On August 5, 2013, the District was notified that the Greenville County Sheriff's Office was conducting an investigation concerning allegations of inappropriate behavior between Ms. Windsor and an eighth grade student in 1995. The student had been in Ms. Windsor's class in 1994. On August 6, 2013, Ms. Windsor resigned from her employment with the District.

On August 8, 2013, Ms. Windsor was arrested in Greenville County, South Carolina, and Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor; Committing a Lewd Act upon a Child under 16 years old; and Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor, second degree, where the victim is 11 to 14 years old. It was alleged that Ms. Windsor encouraged the victim to willfully violate state law by allowing the victim to drive her car on a public roadway in Greenville County, South Carolina and that Ms. Windsor kissed and inappropriately touched the victim in her vehicle. The victim was 13 years old and an 8th grade student at the School, where Ms. Windsor was employed as a teacher, cheerleading coach and math tutor when the incident allegedly occurred between January 1995 and January 1996.

On August 28, 2013, in accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2004), § 59-5-10 (Rev. 2004), and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the SCDE requested that the Chair of the State Board summarily suspend Ms. Windsor's educator certificate 141739, as a result of her arrest on August 8, 2013, in Greenville County, South Carolina on the above-referenced criminal charges. The SCDE sent notice to Ms. Windsor on August 28, 2013. On August 31, 2013, Ms. Windsor received the notice as evidenced by a signed postal receipt. On September 10, 2013 Ms. Windsor contacted the SCDE and informed the SCDE that she desired a hearing after the resolution of her criminal charges. On May 14, 2014, Ms. Windsor pled guilty to Assault and Battery of a High and Aggravated Nature and the original charges were dismissed. Following the resolution of the criminal charges, Ms. Windsor agreed to waive her right to a hearing and to enter into

Sherri M.
Windsor
141739

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this Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender of her educator certificate 141739, effective September 10, 2014.

Ms. Windsor agrees to the surrender of her South Carolina educator certificate 141739 subject to the following conditions: (1) her educator certificate will become invalid and revoked immediately upon the approval by the State Board of the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender; (2) she has waived her right to a hearing and understands that the terms set forth are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review; and (3) she understands that the surrender of her educator certificate will be reported to all school districts in South Carolina and the NASDTEC Clearinghouse as a permanent voluntary surrender and 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, crime against the law of this state and evident unfitness for position for which employed.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (Rev. 2004); 2 S.C. Code Regs 43-58 (Supp. 2011). The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE demonstrates that Ms. Windsor engaged in unprofessional conduct, committed a crime against the law of this state and demonstrated evident unfitness for position for which employed as a result of her inappropriate communication and physical contact of a sexual nature with a thirteen year old male student who was a victim at the School.

The evidence presented supports the State Board’s decision to accept the consent permanent voluntary surrender of educator certificate 141739, issued under the name of Sherri M. Windsor, and to permanently revoke and render invalid Ms. Windsor’s educator certificate effective September 10, 2014.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender is accepted and the educator certificate of Sherri M. Windsor, certificate 141739, is hereby declared invalid and permanently revoked. The permanent voluntary surrender and permanent revocation of the educator certificate of Sherri M. Windsor,

Sherri M.
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certificate 141739 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

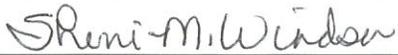
By:



Barry F. Bolen, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
September 10, 2014

I, Sherri M. Windsor, S.C. Educator Certificate 141739, 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 surrender shall have the same effect as a permanent revocation of my educator 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 four pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the South Carolina State Board of Education on September 10, 2014.



Sherri M. Windsor

8-27-14
Date