BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Voluntary Surrender of the Educator Certificate of Gregory M. Hill Certificate 219725	)	**CONSENT ORDER OF PERMANENT VOLUNTARY SURRENDER AND REVOCATION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on July 11, 2012. On September 2, 2010, in accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370 (c) (2004), § 59-5-10 (2004), and State Board Rule of Governance BBAB, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) the Chair of the State Board of Education (State Board) summarily suspended the educator certificate of Gregory M. Hill, certificate 219725, as a result of his arrest on September 1, 2010. Mr. Hill was arrested and charged with nine counts of Dissemination of Harmful Material to Minors. On September 16, 2010, the SCDE sent Mr. Hill notice of his right to a hearing before the State Board concerning this matter by regular and certified mail.

Gregory M. Hill 219725

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On September 19, 2010, Mr. Hill received the notice as evidenced by a postal receipt bearing his signature. On September 28, 2010, counsel for Mr. Hill contacted the SCDE and requested that a private hearing in this matter be held in abatement until the pending criminal charges against Mr. Hill were resolved.

On February 10, 2012, Mr. Hill was sentenced in Marion County on two counts of Disseminating Harmful Material to Minors and Exhibiting Harmful Performance to Minors pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 16-15-385 (A) and (B) (Supp. 2011). Mr. Hill was also sentenced in Dillon County on one count of Disseminating Harmful Material to Minors and Exhibiting Harmful Performance to Minors, S.C. Code Ann. § 16-15-385 (A) and (B) (Supp. 2011). Counsel for Mr. Hill contacted the SCDE and informed the SCDE that Mr. Hill had agreed to waive his right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender and Revocation (Consent Order). After considering

the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order and permanently revoked Mr. Hill's educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Hill holds a professional educator certificate and has over six years of teaching experience. Mr. Hill was previously employed as the Head Football Coach, Athletic Director and high school social studies teacher by the Marion School District Two (District), at Mullins High School (School) for the 2009-2010 school year. On August 26, 2010, the District had placed Mr. Hill on administrative leave. On January 16, 2010, Mr. Hill resigned from his employment with the District. On January 19, 2010, the District's Board of Trustees accepted Mr. Hill's resignation.

Gregory M. Hill 219725

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On September 2, 2010, in accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370 (c) (2004), § 59-5-10 (2004), and State Board Rule of Governance BBAB, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) the Chair of the State Board of Education (State Board) found that Mr. Hill may pose a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of students and summarily suspended Mr. Hill's educator certificate, certificate 219725, as a result of his arrest on September 1, 2010. Mr. Hill was arrested and charged with nine counts of Dissemination of Harmful Material to Minors. On September 16, 2010, the SCDE sent Mr. Hill notice of his right to a hearing before the State Board concerning this matter by regular and certified mail.

On September 19, 2010, Mr. Hill received the notice as evidenced by a postal receipt bearing his signature. On September 28, 2010, counsel for Mr. Hill contacted the SCDE and requested that a private hearing in this matter be held in abatement until the pending criminal charges against Mr. Hill were resolved.

On February 10, 2012, Mr. Hill was sentenced in Marion County on two counts of Disseminating Harmful Material to Minors and Exhibiting Harmful Performance to Minors pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 16-15-385 (A) and (B) (Supp. 2011). Mr. Hill was also sentenced in Dillon County on one count of Disseminating Harmful Material to Minors and Exhibiting Harmful Performance to Minors, S.C. Code Ann. § 16-15-385 (A) and (B) (Supp. 2011). Mr. Hill received a sentence of ten years concurrent, with the balance suspended to five years of probation. The Court also ordered that Mr. Hill be

placed on the sex offender registry and that Mr. Hill shall have no contact with any of the victims. The Court ordered that Mr. Hill receive necessary counseling.

Counsel for Mr. Hill contacted the SCDE and informed the SCDE that Mr. Hill had agreed to waive his right to a hearing and agreed to enter into this Consent Order. Mr. Hill agrees to the permanent surrender of his South Carolina educator certificate 219725 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 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 reasons stated as "unprofessional conduct, immorality, crimes against the law of this state and evident unfitness for position for which employed."

Gregory M. Hill 219725

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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 (2004); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). Just cause includes: "Unprofessional conduct, dishonesty and crimes against the law of this state." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs 43-58 (2011). The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE demonstrates that Mr. Hill engaged in unprofessional conduct, immorality, crimes against the law of this state and demonstrated evident unfitness for position for which employed as a result of his guilty pleas in Dillon County (one count) and Marion County (two counts) to Disseminating Harmful Material to Minors and Exhibiting Harmful Performance to Minors pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 16-15-385 (A) and (B) (Supp. 2011). Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-280 (A) (2) (Supp. 2011), the State Board shall permanently revoke a certificate without a hearing if the holder of the certificate pleads guilty to a certain offenses related to obscenity, materials harmful to minors and child exploitation, including § 16-15-345 (Disseminating Obscene Material to a Person Under Eighteen Years of Age). Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-280 (B) (Supp.

2011), a school district may not employ an educator in any capacity whose South Carolina certificate is revoked pursuant to S. C. Code Ann § 59-25-280 (A) (Supp. 2011).

The evidence presented supports the State Board's decision to accept the Consent Order and permanently revoke and render permanently invalid the educator certificate of Gregory M. Hill, certificate 219725, effective July 11, 2012.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the State Board accepts the Consent Order and the educator certificate of Gregory M. Hill, certificate 219725, is hereby declared permanently invalid and permanently revoked. The permanent voluntary surrender and permanent revocation of the educator certificate of Gregory M. Hill, certificate 219725 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, immorality, crimes against the law of this state, and evident unfitness for position for which employed."

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: Dennis Thompson
Dennis Thompson, Jr., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
July 11, 2012

I, Gregory M. Hill, S.C. Educator Certificate 219725, 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; I hereby freely, knowingly and voluntarily permanently surrender my educator certificate to the South Carolina State Board of Education. I hereby acknowledge that this voluntary 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, consisting of four pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board on July 11, 2012.

Gregory M. Hill
Gregory M. Hill

6/2/12
Date