

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Permanent Revocation)
of the Educator Certificate of)
Jonathan Neil Dover)
Certificate 210398)
_____)

CONSENT ORDER OF PERMANENT VOLUNTARY SURRENDER

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on June 14, 2016. On December 18, 2014, the Chair of the State Board summarily suspended the educator certificate of Jonathan N. Dover, certificate 210398, as a result of allegations of Mr. Dover's improper conduct with a female student. The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice to Mr. Dover on December 18, 2014, by certified mail, return receipt requested. On February 6, 2015, Mr. Dover received the notice as evidenced by a signed postal receipt bearing his signature. On May 24, 2016, Mr. Dover pled guilty to one count of Sexual Battery with a Student, 16 or 17 years of age, no aggravated force or coercion. Mr. Dover has agreed to enter into this Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender of his South Carolina educator certificate 210398, effective June 14, 2016.

Jonathan
Neil Dover
210398

JND

Initials

5/24/16

Date

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

Mr. Dover holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate and has over twelve years of teaching experience in South Carolina. Mr. Dover had been employed by the Spartanburg County School District Three (District) since 2013 as an AP United States History and American Government teacher at Broome High School (School). Mr. Dover also served as an assistant football coach at the School. The District began an investigation after receiving allegations of Mr. Dover's inappropriate conduct with a female student at the School. During a meeting with District administration on December

8, 2014 concerning the investigation, Mr. Dover resigned from his employment with the District.

As a result of allegations that he engaged in an inappropriate physical relationship with a female student between the dates of August 1, 2014, to December 5, 2014, the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Department arrested Mr. Dover on December 16, 2014. Mr. Dover was charged with Sexual Battery with a Student, 16 or 17 years of age, no aggravated force or coercion, in accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 16-3-755 (B) (Supp. 2014). Mr. Dover's alleged misconduct violated school board policies set forth by the District's expectations for employee conduct.

On December 18, 2014, in accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-360(c) (2004), § 59-5-10 (2004), and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the SCDE requested that the Chair of the State Board summarily suspend Mr. Dover's educator certificate 210398, as a result of the foregoing allegations. The SCDE sent notice of the summary suspension to Mr. Dover on December 18, 2014, by certified mail, return receipt requested. On February 6, 2015, Mr. Dover received the notice as evidenced by a signed postal receipt bearing his signature. Mr. Dover did not request a hearing in this matter. On May 24, 2016, Mr. Dover pled guilty to one count of Sexual Battery with a Student, 16 or 17 years of age, no aggravated force or coercion in the Spartanburg County Court of General Sessions. Mr. Dover has agreed to enter into this Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender of his educator certificate, effective June 14, 2016.

Mr. Dover agrees to the Permanent Voluntary Surrender of his South Carolina educator certificate 210398 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 and revocation of his educator certificate will be reported to all school districts in South Carolina and the NASDTEC Clearinghouse.

Jonathan
Neil Dover
210398

JND

Initials

5/24/16

Date

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept this Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender of Mr. Dover's educator certificate effective June 14, 2016.

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, immorality, crime against the law of this state, and evident unfitness for position for which employed." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 2 S.C. Code Regs 43-58 (2011). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Mr. Dover engaged in unprofessional conduct, immorality, crime against the law of this state and evident unfitness for position for which employed as a result of his inappropriate conduct with a female student enrolled at the School and his guilty plea to one count of Sexual Battery with a Student, 16 or 17 years of age, no aggravated force or coercion. Just cause, as defined by statute, exists to approve the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender and permanently revoke Mr. Dover's educator certificate.

The evidence presented supports the State Board's decision to accept the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender of educator certificate 210398, issued under the name of Jonathan Neil Dover, and to permanently revoke and render permanently invalid Mr. Dover's educator certificate, effective June 14, 2016.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender is accepted and the educator certificate of Jonathan Neil Dover, certificate 210398, is hereby declared permanently invalid and permanently revoked. The permanent voluntary surrender and permanent revocation of the educator certificate of Jonathan Neil Dover, certificate 210398 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

Jonathan
Neil
Dover
210398

JND

Initials

5/24/16

Date

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: _____

Michael R. Brennan, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
June 14, 2016

I, Jonathan Neil Dover, S.C. Educator Certificate 210398, 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 four pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the South Carolina State Board of Education on June 14, 2016.

Jonathan Neil Dover
Jonathan Neil Dover

5/24/16
Date