

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Joel M. Leckie
Certificate 161744

CONSENT ORDER OF PERMANENT
VOLUNTARY SURRENDER

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on May 12, 2020. On March 16, 2020, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) summarily suspended educator certificate 161744 and sent notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, to Joel M. Leckie concerning further pending action against the certificate. After receiving the notice, Mr. Leckie's representative notified the SCDE that Mr. Leckie wished to waive his right to a hearing and enter into a consent order. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender of Joel M. Leckie's educator certificate 161744, effective June 9, 2020.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Leckie holds a suspended South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over eighteen years of educator experience. At the time of his arrest, Mr. Leckie was employed by Greenwood County School District Fifty (District) and served as a teacher at Northside Middle School (School).

On or about February 27, 2020, School administration received notice of concerns from a parent. The School Resource Officer reviewed security camera footage that appeared to show Mr. Leckie abusing a student. Mr. Leckie was arrested on the charges of knowing and willful abuse of a vulnerable adult and two counts of cruelty to children. The criminal charges are still pending. However, Mr. Leckie does not wish to return to the classroom and has agreed to the consent order of permanent voluntary surrender.

Joel M. Leckie
161744
JML
Initial
04/24/2020
Date

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Voluntary Surrender of Joel M. Leckie, educator certificate 161744, effective June 9, 2020.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

“The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (Rev. 2004); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2016). The State Board finds that Mr. Leckie, South Carolina educator, reported for allegations of inappropriate physical force against a student, voluntarily surrenders his educator certification on a permanent basis and that just cause exists to accept the permanent voluntary surrender of Mr. Leckie’s South Carolina educator certificate.

Without admission of guilt or wrong doing, Mr. Leckie does not oppose and accepts the State Board’s decision to approve the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender of his educator certificate 161744, issued under the name of Joel M. Leckie, and accepts the permanent revocation and permanent invalidation of his educator certificate, effective June 9, 2020.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender is accepted and the educator certificate of Joel M. Leckie, certificate 161744, 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

s/Michael Brennan
Michael Brennan, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

June 9, 2020

I, Joel M. Leckie, SC Educator Certificate 161744, understand there has been an investigation concerning alleged violations of the laws and regulations governing the practice of educator certificate holders and that I have waived my right to a hearing in this matter. I understand the terms set forth in this Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. Without admission of guilt or wrong doing, I agree to the terms of this Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Suspension, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board for approval on June 9, 2020. 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 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 understand the term 'public school' includes any public charter school. I understand this Order will not become effective until approved by the State Board and, if not approved, it shall not constitute an admission against interest in this proceeding or prejudice the right of the State Board to adjudicate this matter. If approved by the State Board, I give the SCDE permission to use my electronic signature in the style of "s/name" for required website publication.

s/Joel M. Leckie
Joel M. Leckie

04/24/2020
Date