

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Erickson L. Bynum
Certificate 227564

CONSENT ORDER OF PERMANENT
VOLUNTARY SURRENDER

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on April 13, 2021. On June 1, 2016, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Mr. Bynum notice of the summary suspension of his educator certificate and possible further disciplinary action against his educator certificate. Mr. Bynum's certificate was summarily suspended as a result of his indictment for three criminal charges. Mr. Bynum's legal counsel has informed the SCDE that Mr. Bynum desires to waive his right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender of his educator certificate 227564, effective April 13, 2021.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Bynum holds a South Carolina educator certificate that was summarily suspended by the Chair of the State Board on June 1, 2016. At the time of the incident, Mr. Bynum was employed by the Greenville County School District (District) as a teacher at Southside High School (School).

On or about May 3, 2016, Mr. Bynum was placed on administrative leave during an investigation into allegations that he had engaged in inappropriate behavior towards a student. Mr. Bynum was arrested on or about May 18, 2016, in Greenville County, South Carolina. Mr. Bynum resigned from the District, effective August 23, 2016.

On October 13, 2020, the SCDE received notice from Office of the Solicitor in the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit that Mr. Bynum was considering relinquishment of his educator certification as part of a criminal plea agreement. Mr. Bynum's attorneys were consulted and the SCDE drafted this agreement to assist in this matter.

Erickson L. Bynum
227564
____s/ELB____
Initial
_3/10/21____
Date

Mr. Bynum agrees to the permanent surrender of his South Carolina educator certificate 227564 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 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, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2016); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016). Just cause includes “unprofessional conduct and evident unfitness for position for which employed.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016); 2 S.C. Code Regs 43-58 (2016). The State Board finds that Mr. Bynum, a South Carolina educator, has committed an act of unprofessional conduct and has demonstrated evident unfitness for teaching.

Mr. Bynum does not oppose and accepts the State Board’s decision to approve the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender of his educator certificate 227564, issued under the name of Erickson L. Bynum, and accepts the permanent revocation and the rendering of the permanent invalidity of Mr. Bynum’s educator certificate, effective April 13, 2021.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender is accepted and the educator certificate of Erickson L. Bynum, certificate 227564, is hereby declared permanently invalid and permanently revoked. The permanent voluntary surrender and permanent revocation of the educator certificate of

Erickson L. Bynum
227564

Initial

Date

Erickson L. Bynum, certificate 227564, 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/Kristi Woodall
Kristi Woodall, Ed.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
April 13, 2021

I, Erickson L. Bynum, SC Educator Certificate 227564, 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. 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 agree to the terms of this Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board for approval on April 13, 2021. 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/Erickson L. Bynum
Erickson L. Bynum

3/12/21
Date