

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Voluntary)
Surrender of the Educator)
Certificate of Blake E. Hawkey)
Certificate 202133)

**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 May 9, 2012. On March 5, 2012, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent a notice to Blake E. Hawkey of his right to a hearing before the State Board by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery and regular mail. On March 7, 2012, Mr. Hawkey received the notice as evidenced by a postal receipt bearing his signature. On March 20, 2012, Mr. Blakely contacted the SCDE and stated that he agreed to waive his right to a hearing and agreed to enter into this Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender and Revocation. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the permanent voluntary surrender and revocation of Mr. Hawkey's educator certificate 202133.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Hawkey holds a professional educator certificate and has fourteen years of teaching experience. Mr. Hawkey had been employed as a teacher by the Kershaw County School District (District), until he resigned on November 30, 2011, following a district investigation into allegations that Mr. Hawkey accessed inappropriate websites on his district issued laptop computer after school hours. Mr. Hawkey admitted to the accusations and resigned from the District. On November 29, 2011, the District's Board of Trustees approved to accept Mr. Hawkey's resignation.

On March 5, 2012, the SCDE sent a notice to Mr. Hawkey of his right to a hearing before the State Board by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery and regular mail. On March 7, 2012, Mr. Hawkey received the notice as evidenced by a postal receipt bearing his signature. On March 20, 2012, Mr. Blakely contacted the SCDE and stated that he agreed to waive his right to a hearing and had agreed to enter

Blake E.
Hawkey
202133

Initial Here

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into this Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender and Revocation. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the permanent voluntary surrender and revocation of Mr. Hawkey's educator certificate 202133.

Mr. Hawkey agrees to the permanent surrender of his South Carolina educator certificate 202133 subject to the following conditions: (1) his educator certificate will become permanently invalid and revoked immediately upon the approval by the State Board of the consent order; (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 reason stated as "unprofessional conduct."

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." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs 43-58 (Supp. 2011). The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE demonstrates that Mr. Hawkey engaged in unprofessional conduct by accessing inappropriate websites after school hours on his district issued laptop. The evidence presented supports the State Board's decision to accept the permanent voluntary surrender of educator certificate 202133; issued under the name of Blake E. Hawkey, and to permanently revoke and render permanently invalid Mr. Hawkey's educator certificate effective May 9, 2012.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender and Revocation is accepted and the educator certificate of Blake E. Hawkey, certificate 202133, is hereby declared permanently invalid and permanently revoked. The permanent voluntary surrender and revocation of the educator certificate of Blake E. Hawkey, certificate 202133 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."

Blake E.
Hawkey
202133

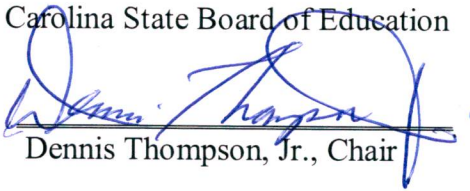
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AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

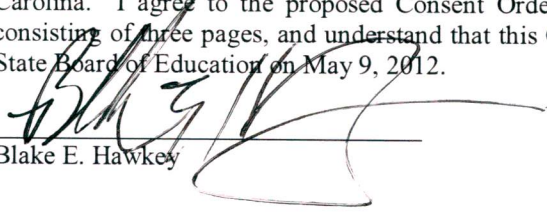
South Carolina State Board of Education

By:


Dennis Thompson, Jr., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
May 9, 2012

I, Blake E. Hawkey, S.C. Educator Certificate 202133, 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 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 and Revocation, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented as signed to the South Carolina State Board of Education on May 9, 2012.


Blake E. Hawkey

4/25/12
Date