

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Permanent)
)
Revocation and Surrender of the)
)
Educator Certificate of)
)
Thomas J. Taylor)
)
Certificate 126739)
_____)

**CONSENT ORDER OF
PERMANENT
SURRENDER**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on November 13, 2013. On February 4, 2011, the Saluda County Sheriff's Department personally served Mr. Thomas J. Taylor with notice from the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) of the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate. On February 15, 2011, legal counsel for Mr. Taylor requested that any suspension or revocation of Mr. Taylor's educator certificate be held in abeyance pending the outcome of the criminal charges against him.

On October 17, 2013, Mr. Taylor entered an Alford plea to one misdemeanor count of Assault and Battery of a High and Aggravated Nature for a time served sentence. Counsel for Mr. Taylor notified the SCDE that Mr. Taylor retired from teaching in October 2010, and that he agreed to permanently surrender his educator certificate and waive his right to a hearing in this matter. Mr. Taylor has agreed to the terms and conditions of this Consent Order of Permanent Surrender.

Thomas J.
Taylor
126739

T.J.T.
Initial here

11-6-13
Date

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Taylor holds a professional educator certificate and has thirty years of teaching experience. Mr. Taylor had been employed by the Saluda County School District (District) since 1980. During the 2010-2011 school year, the District employed Mr. Taylor as a seventh grade language arts teacher at Saluda Middle School. Mr. Taylor resigned from the District on October 20, 2010, following an investigation into allegations that he had engaged in inappropriate conduct towards or in the presence of a former student, which allegations resulted in his arrest. On October 8, 2010, Mr. Taylor

was arrested in Saluda County and charged with Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor (2nd degree).

On October 13, 2010, the Chair of the State Board found that Mr. Taylor may pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of students that may be under his instruction and summarily suspended Mr. Taylor's educator certificate 126739 as a result of his arrest on October 8, 2010. On October 14, 2010, the SCDE sent notice to Mr. Taylor of the summary suspension and his right to a hearing. SCDE was unsuccessful in serving Mr. Taylor via certified mail. On February 4, 2011, the Saluda County Sheriff's Department personally served Mr. Taylor with notice from the SCDE of the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate. On February 15, 2011, legal counsel for Mr. Taylor requested that any suspension or revocation of Mr. Taylor's educator certificate be held in abeyance pending the outcome of the criminal charges against him.

On October 17, 2013, Mr. Taylor entered an Alford plea to one misdemeanor count of Assault and Battery of a High and Aggravated Nature with a sentence of time served. Counsel for Mr. Taylor notified the SCDE that Mr. Taylor retired from teaching in October 2010, and that he agreed to permanently surrender his educator certificate and waive his right to a hearing in this matter. Mr. Taylor has agreed to the terms and conditions of this Consent Order of Permanent Surrender.

Mr. Taylor agrees to the permanent surrender of his educator certificate 126739 and agrees 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 may never apply for a South Carolina educator certificate; (3) he has waived his right to a hearing and understands that the terms set forth herein are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review; and (4) he agrees that his surrender will be reported to all school districts in South Carolina and the NASDTEC Clearinghouse as a permanent surrender and revocation with the reasons stated as "unprofessional conduct."

Thomas
J. Taylor
126739

T.J.T.

Initial
here

11-6-13

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 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2011). Just cause includes: “Unprofessional conduct.” S.C. Code Ann. §59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2011). The State Board finds that the evidence presented supports the State Board’s decision that just cause exists to accept the permanent surrender of educator certificate 126739, issued under the name of Thomas J. Taylor, and to permanently revoke this educator certificate effective November 13, 2013. As a condition of this consent order, Mr. Taylor agrees that he shall never apply for an educator certificate in the state of South Carolina. Mr. Taylor has waived his right to a hearing and understands that the terms set forth herein are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. The permanent surrender and permanent revocation of Mr. Taylor’ educator certificate 126739 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

By: David W. Blackmon
David W. Blackmon, Chair

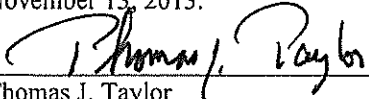
Columbia, South Carolina

November 13, 2013

I, Thomas J. Taylor, S.C. Educator Certificate 126739, 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 do not contest the permanent surrender of my educator certificate to the South Carolina State Board of Education. I hereby acknowledge that this 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

Taylor, Thomas J.
Consent Order of Permanent Surrender
November 13, 2013
Page 4

Carolina. I agree to the proposed Consent Order of Permanent Surrender, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented as signed to the South Carolina State Board of Education on November 13, 2013.



Thomas J. Taylor

11-6-13
Date