

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Permanent)
)
Voluntary Surrender and Revocation)
)
of the Educator Certificate of)
)
Elizabeth Heaton Taylor,)
)
Certificate 275227)

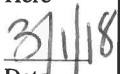
**CONSENT ORDER OF
PERMANENT
VOLUNTARY SURRENDER**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on April 10, 2018. On or about February 16, 2018, Elizabeth Heaton Taylor was charged with two felony counts of Sexual battery with a student 16 or 17 years of age, S.C. Code Ann. §16-3-755(A) (2017) and one misdemeanor count of Giving false information to law enforcement, fire dept., or rescue dept., S.C. Code Ann. §16-17-725(B) (2017). On February 20, 2018, the Chair of the State Board summarily suspended Ms. Taylor's educator certificate. On February 20, 2018, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent the summary suspension order and a notice letter to Ms. Taylor regarding the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina Educator Certificate. This notice included the alternate resolution of a permanent voluntary surrender of her South Carolina educator certificate. After considering the evidence provided, the State Board has agreed to accept the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender for Elizabeth Heaton Taylor, certificate 275227, effective April 10, 2018.

Elizabeth
Heaton
Taylor
275227


Initial
Here


Date

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Taylor holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate that was summarily suspended by the Chair of the State Board on February 20, 2018. She has over two years of teaching experience. Ms. Taylor was employed by the Greenville County School District (District) for the 2017-2018 school year. She served as a Biology teacher and track coach for Greer High School (School). Ms. Taylor resigned from the District, effective February 16, 2018.

On February 15, 2018, a police officer discovered Ms. Taylor in a parked car with a 17 year old male student. When asked to identify herself, Ms. Taylor initially provided the officer with incorrect information. Ms. Taylor was arrested and charged with two felony counts of Sexual battery with a student 16 or 17 years of age, S.C. Code Ann. §16-3-755(A) (2017) and one misdemeanor count of Giving false information to law enforcement, fire dept., or rescue

dept., S.C. Code Ann. §16-17-725(B) (2017). Her criminal charges are pending. In accepting the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender, Ms. Taylor does not admit guilt to the criminal charges pending against her.

Ms. Taylor has informed the SCDE that she no longer wishes to serve as a teacher in South Carolina and that she desires to permanently surrender her South Carolina educator certificate. She agrees to the permanent surrender of her South Carolina educator certificate 275227 subject to the following conditions: (1) her 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) she has waived her right to a hearing and understands that the terms set forth are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review; and (3) she understands that the permanent surrender of her 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, 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 dishonesty.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016); 2 S.C. Code Regs 43-58 (2016). The State Board finds that Ms. Taylor, a South Carolina educator, reported for allegations of an inappropriate relationship of a sexual nature with a student and providing false information to law enforcement, has committed acts of unprofessional conduct and dishonesty and that just cause exists to accept the permanent voluntary surrender of Ms. Taylor’s South Carolina educator certificate.

Ms. Taylor does not oppose and accepts the State Board’s decision to approve the Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender of her educator certificate 275227, issued under the name of Elizabeth Heaton Taylor, and accepts the permanent revocation and permanent invalidation of her educator certificate, effective April 10, 2018.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender is accepted and the educator certificate of Elizabeth Heaton Taylor, certificate 275227, is hereby declared permanently invalid and permanently revoked. The permanent voluntary surrender and permanent revocation of the educator certificate of Elizabeth Heaton Taylor, certificate 275227,

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: 
Sharon Wall, Ed.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
April 10, 2018

I, Elizabeth Heaton Taylor, S.C. Educator Certificate 275227, 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 Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender 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 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 three pages, and understand that this Consent Order will be presented to the South Carolina State Board of Education on April 10, 2018. 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.


Elizabeth Heaton Taylor

3/1/18
Date