

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
James E. McTeer
Certificate 244092

**CONSENT ORDER OF
VOLUNTARY SURRENDER**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on March 12, 2024. On January 31, 2024, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, to James E. McTeer concerning pending action against certificate 244092. Mr. McTeer received the notice and contacted the SCDE to discuss an alternate resolution. He has agreed to the voluntary surrender of his educator certification. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Voluntary Surrender of Mr. McTeer educator certificate 244092, effective March 12, 2024.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. McTeer holds a suspended South Carolina educator certificate and has over twelve years of educator experience. At the time of the incident, Mr. McTeer had recently resigned from a school district and not yet had started at his new district.

On July 28, 2020, Mr. McTeer's educator certification was summarily suspended due to his arrest for the felony charge of third degree arson. In August 2023, he pled to this misdemeanor charge of damaging a structure on capital grounds.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Voluntary Surrender of Mr. McTeer's educator certificate 244092, effective March 12, 2024.

James E. McTeer
244092
s/JEM
Initial
2/10/24
Date

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

“The State Board may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2016). Just cause includes “unprofessional conduct and evident unfitness for position for which employed.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2016). Accordingly, the evidence presented supports the State Board’s determination that just cause exists to revoke the educator certificate of James E. McTeer, educator certificate 244092, effective March 12, 2024.

Mr. McTeer has the right to reapply for certification after three years. He shall, pursuant to State Board Rule BBCDB, be subject to a character and fitness review before the State Board with employment information during the period of certificate surrender; community service records; letters of support from a current or prospective school district employer, if applicable; letters of support from community leaders; and SLED and FBI background checks. Mr. McTeer shall also pay all applicable fees for certification, if any. The revocation of Mr. McTeer’s educator certificate 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 Board of Education

s/David C. O’Shields
David C. O’Shields, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
March 12, 2024

(Signature page attached)

James E. McTeer
244092
s/JEM
Initial
2/10/24
Date

I, James E. McTeer, SC Educator Certificate 244092, 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 Voluntary Surrender are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. I agree to the terms of this Consent Order of Voluntary Suspension, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board for approval on March 12, 2024. I hereby acknowledge that this surrender shall have the same effect as a 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 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/ James E. McTeer
James E. McTeer

2/10/24
Date

James E. McTeer
244092
s/JEM
Initial
2/10/24
Date