

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation or)
Suspension of the Educator Certificate of)
Sandra I. Walsh,)
Certificate 246631)
_____)
_____)

**ORDER OF PERMANENT
VOLUNTARY SURRENDER**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on April 11, 2017. On February 7, 2017 the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Ms. Walsh notice of possible action against her educator certificate. Ms. Walsh received the notice. Ms. Walsh, by and through counsel, informed the SCDE that she desires to waive her right to a hearing and enter into a Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender of her educator certificate 246631, effective April 11, 2017.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Walsh was employed by the Beaufort County School District (District) as a 5th grade teacher at Hilton Head Island School for the Creative Arts (School). On July 14, 2016, an incident report was filed with the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office alleging Ms. Walsh was engaged in an inappropriate, intimate relationship with a 17-year-old student of a local high school. Subsequently, Ms. Walsh resigned from her position with the District. Ms. Walsh has since moved back to her home state and does not plan on returning to South Carolina. No criminal charges have been brought.

Sandra I. Walsh 246631
SW
Initial Here
3/29/17
Date

Ms. Walsh agrees to the permanent surrender of her South Carolina educator certificate 246631 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 Consent 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, immorality, any conduct involving moral turpitude 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 Ms. Walsh, an elementary school teacher accused of inappropriate intimate contact with a 17 year old high school student and such conduct constitutes unprofessional conduct, immorality, conduct involving moral turpitude and demonstrates evident unfitness for her teaching position for which she was employed.

Ms. Walsh does not oppose and accepts the State Board's decision to approve the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender of her educator certificate 246631, issued under the name of Sandra L. Walsh, and accepts the permanent revocation and the rendering of permanent invalidity of Ms. Walsh's educator certificate, effective April 11, 2017.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender is accepted and the educator certificate of Sandra L. Walsh, certificate 246631, is hereby declared permanently invalid and permanently revoked. The permanent voluntary surrender and revocation of the educator certificate of Sandra L. Walsh, certificate 246631, 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



Ivah Randolph, Ph.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
April 11, 2017

Sandra L. Walsh 246631
<u>JLW</u>
Initial Here
<u>3-29-17</u>
Date

Sandra L. Walsh, Certificate 246631
Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender
April 11, 2017
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I Sandra L. Walsh, S.C. Educator Certificate 246631, 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, 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, hand 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 Order will be presented to the South Carolina State Board of Education on April 11, 2017.


Sandra L. Walsh _____

3-29-17
Date: _____

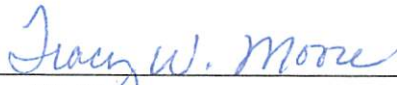
BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension or)
)
Revocation of the Educator Certificate of)
)
Sandra L. Walsh)
)
)
Certificate 246631)

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Sandra L. Walsh
C/O: Joseph M. McCulloch, Esq.
McCulloch & Schillaci
1513 Hampton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

PERSONALLY APPEARED BEFORE ME Tracy W. Moore, who, being duly sworn, deposes and says: That she is an Administrative Assistant for the South Carolina Department of Education, Office of General Counsel with offices at Columbia, SC; that on the 11th day of April, 2017, she mailed in a sealed envelope, postage prepaid, a copy of Ms. Walsh's Consent Order of Suspension to Ms. Walsh in care of Joseph M. McCulloch, Esq., at the above address.



Tracy W. Moore
Administrative Assistant

SWORN TO BEFORE ME this 12th
DAY of April, 2017.



Notary Public for South Carolina

My Commission Expires: My Commission Expires July 13, 2019