



June 8, 2016

The Honorable Molly Spearman
Superintendent of Education
South Carolina Department of Education
1429 Senate Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Mr. Michael Brennan
Chairperson
South Carolina Board of Education
1429 Senate Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Re: James C. Olsen
Certificate Number 205011

Dear Ms. Spearman and Mr. Brennan:

Pursuant to State Board of Education Regulation 43-58.1, I am reporting that, on or about June 2, 2016, James C. Olsen, Coosa Elementary School ("CES") fifth grade teacher, resigned from employment with the Beaufort County District ("BCSD"). I had begun investigating Mr. Olsen, and he resigned rather than undergo further investigation for potential inappropriate contact with female students. Prior to resignation Mr. Olsen admitted his failure to follow a directive from his Principal and to being dishonest with his Principal and with me during the opening stages of the investigation.

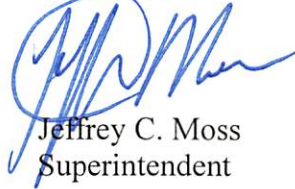
In December, 2015, Charles DelForge, CES Principal, verbally directed Mr. Olsen to cease allowing female students to sit on his lap during class. Melissa Pender, CES fifth grade teacher, witnessed Mr. Olsen engaged in such activity and reported it to Mr. DelForge. Mr. DelForge subsequently witnessed the same activity, which lead to his directive. In May, 2016, Ms. Pender again observed Mr. Olsen allowing a female student to sit on his lap. She reported the same to Mr. DelForge. Mr. DelForge confronted Mr. Olsen, who admitted to such conduct. Mr. Olsen also admitted such conduct to me during a May 27, 2016 meeting.

Mr. Olsen was also dishonest with both his principal and me. His confession regarding dishonesty is set forth in the attached May 31, 2016, e-mail to Alice Walton, BCSD Chief Human Resources Officer.

Mr. DelForge reported this conduct to law enforcement as a potential issue regarding abuse of students. It is my understanding the Beaufort County Sheriff's Department is investigating Mr. DelForge's report regarding Mr. Olsen and is interviewing students possible affected.

Should you require any additional information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey C. Moss
Superintendent

cc: Alice C. Walton, Chief Human Resources Officer
Drew H. Davis, General Counsel
Wendy Cartledge, SC Department of Education Deputy General Counsel
Charles DeForge, CES Principal
Personnel File

From: Walton, Alice W
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2016 5:06 PM
To: Davis, Drew H
Subject: Fwd: Confession
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

Alice W. Walton
Beaufort County School District
Human Resources
843-322-2419 Office
843-812-8374 Mobile

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Olsen, James C" <James.Olsen@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Date: May 31, 2016 at 4:02:50 PM EDT
To: "Walton, Alice W" <Alice.Walton@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Subject: Confession

This has been eating at me since last Monday night when I lied to Mr. DelForge. I also continued the lie on Friday. I was just trying to bluff my way through it. Stupid decisions. After your comment about thinking on Friday I was up front and honest I sat in my car and about cried. I can't continue to lie about it.

I have never killed anyone. Never been in combat, always in wrong unit or base. I made that up on the spot with Mr. DelForge to add credibility to my statement of how important the kid is to me. Stupid thought process. Then I tried to bluff it through with you and Dr. Moss on Friday. Your comment busted me. It would have come out with the Dr. anyway and I would rather you hear it from me than her. I have already been in to Mr. DelForge and confessed to him.

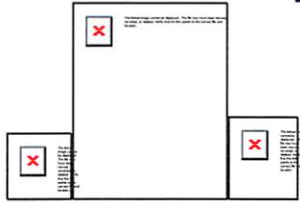
I will go to the Dr. and convince her I am not a threat to children or a consistent liar. I was distraught and devastated during the conversation with Mr. DelForge, is the only thing I can say, but that is still no excuse. I believe in the honor I spoke about on Friday, but I was not honorable with this and will I have to live with it. It will haunt me for a long time regardless of the outcome of the Dr. evaluation. It was a stupid, bad

decision and I apologize to you and Dr. Moss. I can only say I screwed up and ask your forgiveness.

I would have come back to tell you this in person, but I am too ashamed and embarrassed and I know you are very busy.

Respectfully,

**Jim Olsen
5th Grade
Out In The Garage
Coosa Elementary**



322-6184

james.olsen@beaufort.k12.sc.us

**"It is our choices that show what we truly are,
far more than our abilities."**