

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION**

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,	:	
Petitioner,	:	
	:	
v.	:	PSPC DOCKET NO. DI-23-115
	:	
AARON T. JONES,	:	
Respondent.	:	

ORDER ACCEPTING SURRENDER

This matter is before the Professional Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) on the Department of Education’s (Department) Motion for Entry of Order. The Motion requests that the Commission accept the surrender of the certificate and employment eligibility of Aaron T. Jones (Respondent) in resolution of an Order to Show Cause filed against him. The Motion was presented to the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on March 18, 2024. After careful consideration, the Commission enters this Order accepting Respondent’s surrender.

Background

Respondent holds an Instructional I certificate in the area of English 7-12. Respondent also held a Virginia Educator’s certificate covering the area of Collegiate Professional. At all times relevant, Respondent was employed as a teacher by the Frederick County Public Schools in Virginia. On September 21, 2017, the Virginia Department of Education accepted the voluntary surrender and cancellation of Respondent’s Virginia Educator’s certificate in response to a petition alleging that Respondent engaged in an inappropriate relationship with one of his female students. As a result, on December 6, 2023, the Department issued to Respondent an Order to Show Cause seeking reciprocal discipline pursuant to section 9e of the Educator

Discipline Act (Act), 24 P.S. § 2070.9e.¹

On January 3, 2024, Respondent signed an Affidavit agreeing to surrender his certificate and employment eligibility. (Motion for Entry of Order, Ex. 1). On January 26, 2024, the Department filed a Motion for Entry of Order requesting that the Commission accept Respondent's surrender in lieu of further disciplinary proceedings.

Surrender

Pursuant to the Act, surrender shall mean the termination by consent of a certificate or employment eligibility. 24 P.S. § 2070.1b. Surrender of a certificate or employment eligibility constitutes discipline. Id. The Act authorizes the Commission to accept the surrender of Respondent's certificate and employment eligibility.

Order

AND NOW, this 27th day of March 2024, upon consideration of the Department's Motion for Entry of Order, it is hereby Ordered:

1. The Motion is granted, and the Commission accepts the surrender of Respondent's certificate and eligibility to be employed as a charter or cyber charter school staff member or contracted educational provider staff member.
2. Respondent's certificate and eligibility to be employed as a charter or cyber charter school staff member or contracted educational provider staff member are, therefore, terminated effective on the date of this Order.

1. Section 9e of the Act provides that upon receipt of a certified copy of an adjudication from the appropriate licensing authority in another state, territory or nation imposing discipline for grounds that are comparable to the grounds for discipline under the Act, the Department may issue an order directing that the educator show cause why the imposition of identical or comparable discipline in this Commonwealth would be unwarranted. 24 P.S. § 2070.9e(a).

3. The acceptance by the Commission of the surrender of Respondent's certificate and employment eligibility shall constitute the imposition of discipline against Respondent.
4. Respondent is not eligible to be employed in a school entity in a position requiring certification or as a charter or cyber charter school staff member or contracted educational provider staff member, or eligible for any certificate, until his certificate and employment eligibility are reinstated in accordance with the Act.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND
PRACTICES COMMISSION

By: 

Myron Yoder
Chairperson Pro Tempore



Attest:

Shane F. Crosby
Executive Director

Date Mailed: March 27, 2024