COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, : Petitioner, :

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v. : PSPC DOCKET NO. DI-24-019

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KENNETH M. BLUMBERG, :

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 certificates and employment eligibility of Kenneth M. Blumberg (Respondent) in resolution of an educator misconduct complaint 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 II certificate in the areas of Elementary K-6 and Art PK-12, and an Administrative I certificate in the area of Principal PK-12. At all times relevant until his retirement on January 15, 2024, Respondent was employed by the School District of Philadelphia as a teacher. On November 20, 2023, an educator misconduct complaint was filed with the Department alleging that Respondent was criminally charged with Sexual Abuse of Children, Criminal Use of a Communication Facility, and Possessing Instruments of Crime after possessing and viewing child pornography on multiple occasions. As required by the Educator Discipline Act (Act),

the Department provided written notice to Respondent of the legal sufficiency of the complaint and of its determination that there was probable cause to believe that grounds for discipline existed. 24 P.S. § 2070.9(e). The Department subsequently learned that Respondent was convicted of Sexual Abuse of Children.

On February 2, 2024, Respondent signed an Affidavit agreeing to surrender his certificates and employment eligibility. (Motion for Entry of Order, Ex. 1). On February 21, 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. <u>Id</u>. The Act authorizes the Commission to accept the surrender of Respondent's certificates 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:

- The Motion is granted, and the Commission accepts the surrender of Respondent's certificates and eligibility to be employed as a charter or cyber charter school staff member or contracted educational provider staff member.
- Respondent's certificates 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.

 The acceptance by the Commission of the surrender of Respondent's certificates 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.

5. Pursuant to 24 P.S. § 2070.16(b), the Commission shall not reinstate Respondent's certificates and employment eligibility.

6. The educator misconduct complaint filed against Respondent is resolved.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

By:

Myron Yoder

Chairperson Pro Tempore

Attest:

Shane F. Crosby Executive Director

Date Mailed: March 27, 2024