

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

<b>DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,</b>	:	
<b>Petitioner,</b>	:	
	:	
<b>v.</b>	:	<b>PSPC DOCKET NO. DI-20-018</b>
	:	
<b>TONYA M. PATTON A/K/A</b>	:	
<b>TONYA M. WADE,</b>	:	
<b>Respondent.</b>	:	

**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”). The Motion requests that the Commission accept the surrender of the certificate and employment eligibility of Tonya M. Patton A/K/A Tonya M. Wade (“Respondent”) in resolution of a Notice of Charges and Motion for Summary Judgment filed against her. The Commission heard the Motion at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 11, 2020. Respondent was not present. After careful consideration, the Commission enters this Order accepting Respondent’s surrender.

**BACKGROUND**

Respondent currently holds an Instructional I certificate in the area of Elementary K-6. On February 6, 2020, the Department filed a Notice of Charges alleging that Respondent was criminally convicted in Mecklenberg County, North Carolina of Embezzlement of Property Received by Virtue of Office or Employment, which the Department alleged is a crime involving moral turpitude. On that same date, the Department filed a Motion for Summary Judgment requesting that the Commission enter judgment in its favor and revoke Respondent’s certificate and employment eligibility based

upon her conviction. The Department mailed copies of the Notice of Charges and Motion for Summary Judgment to Respondent's last-known address. Respondent did not file an answer to either pleading.

On February 24, 2020, Respondent signed an Affidavit agreeing to surrender her certificate and employment eligibility. (Motion for Entry of Order, Ex. 1). On March 6, 2020, 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 Educator Discipline Act ("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 22<sup>nd</sup> day of June 2020, upon consideration of the Motion for Entry of Order filed by the Department of Education, it is hereby Ordered:

1. The Motion is granted, and the Commission accepts the surrender of Respondent's Instructional I certificate and eligibility to be employed as a charter or cyber charter school staff member or contracted educational provider staff member.
2. Respondent's Instructional I certificate and her 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.

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 her certificate or employment eligibility is reinstated in accordance with the Act.
5. The Notice of Charges and Motion for Summary Judgment are resolved.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND  
PRACTICES COMMISSION

By: 

---

Myron Yoder  
Chairperson Pro Tempore

Attest: 

---

Shane F. Crosby  
Executive Director

Date Mailed: June 22, 2020