

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

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,	:	
Petitioner,	:	
	:	
v.	:	DOCKET NO. IS-22-014
	:	
TONYA L. PIPER,	:	
Respondent.	:	

ORDER LIFTING SUSPENSION

On July 20, 2022, the Department of Education (Department) filed a Notice of Charges seeking the immediate suspension of Tonya L. Piper’s (Respondent) certificate and employment eligibility pursuant to section 9b(a)(1) of the Educator Discipline Act (Act). Without making any admissions, Respondent agreed not to contest the Department’s request for immediate suspension. Accordingly, by Order dated September 23, 2022, the Commission directed the Department to immediately suspend Respondent’s certificate and employment eligibility.

Pursuant to section 9b(a)(1)(iii) of the Act, the Commission shall direct the Department to immediately lift a suspension upon receipt of certified court documents establishing that the criminal charges have been dismissed or otherwise removed.¹ 24 P.S. § 2070.9b(a)(1)(iii). The Commission is in receipt of certified court documents showing that Respondent was found “not guilty” on all charges. Thus, the Act mandates Respondent’s immediate reinstatement.²

Order

1. The Commission’s bylaws authorize its legal counsel to enter reinstatement orders under this section. See 22 Pa. Code § 233.123(e)(6)(iii).

2. The Commission will direct the Department to reinstate Respondent’s certificate and employment eligibility effective February 8, 2024, the date of the jury’s verdict.

AND NOW, this 8th day of March 2024, it is hereby Ordered:

1. Pursuant to 24 P.S. § 2070.9b(a)(1)(iii), the Department shall lift the suspension and reinstate Respondent's certificate and eligibility to be employed as a charter or cyber charter school staff member or contracted educational provider staff member, effective February 8, 2024.
2. The Department may pursue discipline against Respondent on other available grounds if it determines that such action is warranted. 24 P.S. § 2070.9b(b).

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Shane F. Crosby
Legal Counsel

Date Mailed: March 8, 2024