

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

<b>DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,</b>	:	
<b>Petitioner,</b>	:	
	:	
<b>v.</b>	:	<b>PSPC DOCKET NO. DI-23-121</b>
	:	
<b>LEIGHTON O. HEWITT,</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 requests that the Commission accept the surrender of the certificate and employment eligibility of Leighton O. Hewitt (Respondent) in resolution of educator misconduct complaints filed against him. The Motion was presented to the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on January 22, 2024. After careful consideration, the Commission enters this Order accepting Respondent’s surrender.

**Background**

Respondent was issued a Day-to-Day Substitute Emergency Permit in the area of All Instructional Areas PK-12. At all times relevant, Respondent was employed by the Stroudsburg Area School District as a substitute teacher and by the East Stroudsburg Area School District as a girls’ volleyball coach. On July 18, 2017, and September 5, 2017, educator misconduct complaints were filed with the Department alleging that Respondent engaged in non-consensual contact with a nineteen-year-old female. As required by the Educator Discipline Act (Act), the Department provided written notice to Respondent of the legal sufficiency of the complaints and of its determination that there was probable cause to believe that grounds for discipline

existed. 24 P.S. § 2070.9(e).

The Department initiated disciplinary proceedings against Respondent with the filing of a Notice of Charges on January 8, 2018. The Notice of Charges alleged that Respondent was criminally charged as a result of his alleged non-consensual contact with a nineteen-year-old female and that he posed a threat to the health, safety or welfare of students or other persons in the schools of this Commonwealth. After Respondent failed to respond to the Notice of Charges, by Order dated February 28, 2018, the Commission directed the Department to immediately suspend Respondent's certificate and employment eligibility pursuant to section 9b(a)(1) of the Act. 24 P.S. § 2070.9b(a)(1).

On August 17, 2018, Respondent was convicted of Selling or Furnishing Liquor or Malt or Brewed Beverages to Minors, 18 Pa.C.S. § 6310.1(a), in Monroe County, Pennsylvania. The remaining charges were nolle prossed.

On November 3, 2023, Respondent signed an Affidavit agreeing to surrender his certificate and employment eligibility. (Motion for Entry of Order, Ex. 1). On November 15, 2023, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February 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.
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.
5. The educator misconduct complaints filed against Respondent are resolved.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND  
PRACTICES COMMISSION

By: 

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Myron Yoder  
Chairperson Pro Tempore



Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Shane F. Crosby  
Executive Director

Date Mailed: February 2, 2024