

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

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,	:	
Petitioner,	:	
	:	
v.	:	PSPC DOCKET NO. DI-23-129
	:	
CHRISTOPHER PODBIELSKI,	:	
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 Christopher Podbielski (Respondent) in resolution of the Notice of Charges 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 Day-to-Day Substitute Emergency Permits in the area of All Instructional Areas PK-12. Respondent was employed by the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit 27 and Big Beaver Falls Area School District as a substitute teacher and volunteer manager for the high school boys’ basketball team until his termination on December 21, 2015. The Department initiated disciplinary proceedings against Respondent with the filing of a Notice of Charges on December 6, 2023. The Notice of Charges alleges that Respondent punched a student athlete in the face causing injury.

On December 21, 2023, Respondent signed an Affidavit agreeing to surrender his certificates and employment eligibility. (Motion for Entry of Order, Ex. 1). On January 5,

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 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 certificates and employment eligibility.

Order

AND NOW, this 2nd 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 certificates and eligibility to be employed as a charter or cyber charter school staff member or contracted educational provider staff member.
2. 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.
3. 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, until his certificates and employment eligibility are reinstated in accordance with the Act.

5. The Notice of Charges filed against Respondent is resolved.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND
PRACTICES COMMISSION

By: 

Myron Yoder
Chairperson Pro Tempore



Attest: _____
Shane F. Crosby
Executive Director

Date Mailed: February 2, 2024