

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

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,	:	
Petitioner,	:	
	:	
v.	:	PSPC DOCKET NO. DI-24-001
	:	
DAVID P. GRIFFITH,	:	
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 certificate and employment eligibility of David P. Griffith (Respondent) in resolution of an educator misconduct complaint 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 holds an Instructional I certificate in the area of Grades 4-8 (All Subjects 4-6, English Language Arts and Reading 7-8). Most recently, Respondent was employed by Phoenix Academy as a teacher. Respondent also volunteers as a middle school music director for the Lampeter-Strasburg School District. On November 28, 2023, an educator misconduct complaint was filed with the Department alleging that Respondent was criminally charged with Sexual Abuse of Children, Corruption of Minors, Unlawful Contact with Minor, Invasion of Privacy and Tampering with or Fabricating Physical Evidence as a result of allegations he offered sexual favors to a juvenile male, filmed a minor female changing at his residence, and engaged in a

sexual relationship with a minor. 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).

On December 23, 2023, Respondent signed an Affidavit agreeing to surrender his certificate and employment eligibility. (Motion for Entry of Order, Ex. 1). On January 4, 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. Id. The Act authorizes the Commission to accept the surrender of Respondent's certificate 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 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.
5. Pursuant to 24 P.S. § 2070.16(b), the Commission shall not reinstate Respondent's certificate 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: February 2, 2024