

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

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
Petitioner,**

v.

**SEAN T. O'NEIL,
Respondent.**

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PSPC DOCKET NO. DI-22-100

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 Sean T. O'Neil ("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 9, 2023. After careful consideration, the Commission enters this Order accepting Respondent's surrender.

BACKGROUND

Respondent currently holds an Instructional II certificate in the area of Music PK-12. At all relevant times, Respondent was employed by the New Kensington-Arnold School District as a music teacher. On May 12, 2021, an educator misconduct complaint was filed with the Department alleging that Respondent engaged in inappropriate text communications with a 17-year-old female student in which they discussed drugs and sexual situations, and Respondent asked the student to save his number in her phone under different female names. Respondent was subsequently criminally charged in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. On August 4, 2022, Respondent was convicted of, *inter alia*, Corruption of Minors, 18 Pa.C.S. §

6301(a)(1)(i).

On October 24, 2022, Respondent signed an Affidavit agreeing to surrender his certificate and employment eligibility. (Motion for Entry of Order, Ex. 1). On December 14, 2022, 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 10th day of February 2023, 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 certificate and his eligibility to be employed as a charter or cyber charter school staff member or contracted educational provider staff member.
2. Respondent's certificate and his 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 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 10, 2023