

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

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
Petitioner,**

v.

**ROBERT P. EDWARDS,
Respondent.**

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PSPC DOCKET NO. DI-21-110

ORDER APPROVING SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This matter is before the Professional Standards and Practices Commission (“Commission”) on the Department of Education’s (“Department”) Motion for Entry of Order filed on March 4, 2022. The Motion requests that the Commission issue an order approving the parties’ Settlement Agreement and directing the Department to issue a public reprimand to Robert P. Edwards (“Respondent”) in settlement of a Notice of Charges filed against him.

BACKGROUND

Respondent currently holds an Administrative I certificate in the area of Career and Technical Admin Director 7-12 and an Administrative II certificate in the area of Secondary Principal 7-12. Respondent was employed by the Beaver County CTC until his resignation in 2016. The Department initiated disciplinary proceedings against Respondent with the filing of a Notice of Charges on November 19, 2021. The Notice of Charges alleges that Respondent submitted misrepresented reference letters. Initially, Respondent requested a hearing, and the Commission appointed a hearing officer to preside over the proceeding. Subsequently, the parties engaged in settlement

negotiations, and the matter was continued generally pending consideration by the Commission of the parties' agreement.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

A teaching certificate is a constitutionally protected property right entitled to due process protection. Bowalick v. Dep't of Educ., 840 A.2d 519, 522 (Pa. Cmwlth. 2003). Generally, an accused educator is entitled to a full evidentiary hearing conducted in accordance with the Educator Discipline Act and the Administrative Agency Law. 24 P.S. §§ 2070.13 (relating to hearing) and 2070.18(a) (relating to commission proceedings and procedures). In place of a hearing, a charge of misconduct can be resolved in a written settlement agreement. 24 P.S. § 2070.12 (relating to department action after investigation). When approved by the Commission, a settlement agreement has the same effect as an order issued following an administrative adjudication. See Kenney v. Bureau of Prof'l & Occupational Affairs, 203 A.3d 421 (Pa. Cmwlth. 2019).

The parties have entered into a written Settlement Agreement, whereby they agree to resolve all matters contained in the Notice of Charges with the issuance of a public reprimand to Respondent. The Settlement Agreement was presented to the Commission for approval at its regularly scheduled meeting on March 21, 2022. After careful consideration, the Commission finds that the agreement is fair, reasonable, and in the best interests of the parties and the public and enters the following:

ORDER

AND NOW, this 1st day of April 2022, upon consideration of the Department's Motion for Entry of Order requesting approval of the parties' Settlement Agreement in lieu of further disciplinary proceedings, it is hereby Ordered:

1. The Motion for Entry of Order is Granted, and the Settlement Agreement is approved.
2. The Commission incorporates the terms of the Settlement Agreement into this Order.
3. Consistent with the terms of the Settlement Agreement, the Department is directed to issue a public reprimand to Respondent effective on the date of this Order.
4. 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: April 1, 2022