DATE: JUNE 5, 2013
TO: Vicki Phillips
FROM: Jessica Riddick
SUBJECT: AARON C. BUSER
Certificate No. 1716690 (Type 10)

The State Superintendent of Education has suspended the Certificate No. 1716690 (Type 10) of Aaron C. Buser pursuant to Section 218-75 of the School Code. A copy of the Superintendent's Order is attached. Please inform the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board of this action. For the purpose of reporting to NASDTEC, this action is based on a criminal conviction that is related to Theft and Illegal Substances, and on drug- or alcohol-related conduct.

Attachment: Order
Notice of Opportunity for Hearing

cc: Jeff Aranowski
    Nicki Bazer
    Pam Kellus
    Bonnie Schnirring
    Kellee Sullivan
    Linda Tomlinson
June 5, 2013

Aaron C. Buser

Re: Suspension of Certificate
Certificate No. 1716690 (Type 10)

Dear Mr. Buser:

The State Superintendent of Education has suspended your Certificate No. 1716690 (Type 10) pursuant to Section 21B-75 of the School Code. A copy of the Superintendent’s Order is enclosed for your information.

Regards,

Jessica Riddick
Assistant General Counsel

cc: Vicki Phillips (via email)
Regional Superintendent Robert Sondgeroth, Whiteside County (via email)

Enclosure: Order
IN THE MATTER OF THE 
SUSPENSION OF THE 
TEACHING CERTIFICATE of 
AARON C. BUSER 
Certificate No. 1716690 (Type 10)

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

You are advised that your Certificate No. 1716690 (Type 10) is subject to suspension for four (4) years pursuant to Section 21B-75 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/21B-75), based on conduct alleged in the attached Statement of Charges. Section 21B-75 of the School Code provides that any certificate may be suspended or revoked by the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board (SEPLB), upon evidence of immorality or unprofessional conduct. You are entitled to a hearing pursuant to Part 475 of Title 23 Illinois Administrative Code, before the SEPLB before action is taken to suspend your certificate.

Pursuant to 23 Ill. Admin. Code 475.40, if you wish to contest the charges in the enclosed Statement of Charges or the recommended sanction, you are hereby advised that you must request a hearing in writing within 10 days of receipt of this Notice. A request for a hearing must be addressed to:

Dr. Christopher A. Koch
State Superintendent of Education
Illinois State Board of Education
100 N. First Street
Springfield IL 62777

A hearing officer will be appointed and will contact you with further information. If you do request a hearing before the SEPLB, such hearing will be held in accordance with the administrative rules governing hearings at 23 Ill. Admin. Code Part 475.

If you do not wish to contest the charges in the attached Statement of Charges or the recommended sanction, you do not have to request a hearing, and the recommended sanction will be imposed. You will receive an Order explaining the sanction that has been imposed. The sanction will begin as of the date of that Order.

You are further advised that any certificate may be voluntarily surrendered by the certificate holder pursuant to Section 21-14 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/21-14). A certificate holder may choose to surrender his or her certificate to avoid the administrative
hearing process. A voluntarily surrendered certificate is considered a revoked certificate. Should you elect to take that course, I am enclosing a Voluntary Surrender of Certificates form. This form must be signed before a notary public.

Upon final order of the SEPLB or State Superintendent Koch to suspend or revoke a certificate, the SEPLB or its designee shall report the final disposition of the certificate holder to the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC).

Please contact Assistant General Counsel Jessica Riddick at (312) 814-2223 if you have any questions.

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

Dated at Springfield, Illinois, this 12th day of April 2013.

Enclosures

cc: Regional Superintendent Robert Sondgeroth, Whiteside County
STATE OF ILLINOIS
STATE EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND LICENSURE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE )
SUSPENSION OF THE )
TEACHING CERTIFICATE of )
AARON C. BUSER )
Certificate No. 1716690 (Type 10) )

STATEMENT OF CHARGES

The Illinois State Superintendent of Education hereby approves the following charges and incorporates these charges as part of the Notice of Opportunity for Hearing issued to Aaron C. Buser ("Respondent"), holder of Certificate Number 1716690 (Type 10):

Material Allegations

1. During the 2010-2011 school year, Respondent was employed as a special education teacher and wrestling coach at Rock Falls High School.

2. On the evening of January 26, 2011, Respondent sent inappropriate text messages to a female student (the "Student") between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. In those text messages, Respondent made various inappropriate comments, including that the Student was "hot" and inquired about the two of them "hooking up."

3. When the Student complained to the administration about Respondent, the matter was investigated. In the course of the investigation, Respondent confirmed that he had sent the text messages at issue, but denied that he was attempting to pursue a sexual relationship with the Student. Respondent has also admitted that he consumed Vicodin and several alcoholic beverages before sending the text messages to the Student.

4. Respondent resigned from employment at Rock Falls High School as a result of the incident with the Student.

5. In January of 2012, Respondent was arrested for entering a friend’s home without permission to steal Vicodin pills. In December of 2012, Respondent pled guilty to residential burglary and was sentenced to 48 months of probation, 30 days in county jail, and substance abuse treatment.
Violations

6. Respondent’s conduct as outlined in the material allegations establishes gross unprofessional and immoral behavior that violated Section 21B-75 of the Illinois School Code [105 ILCS 5/21B-75] which provides that any certificate may be suspended or revoked by the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board upon evidence of unprofessional conduct.

Wherefore, based on the violations as alleged above, the Superintendent recommends that Certificate Number 1716690 (Type 10) held by Aaron C. Buser, be suspended for a period of 4 years.
PROOF OF SERVICE

I certify that I served the foregoing Notice of Opportunity for Hearing by depositing copies thereof in the United States Mail, via certified mail, postage prepaid, on April 18, 2013, addressed to the following at the addresses shown:

Aaron C. Buser

I further certify that I served the foregoing referenced documents via electronic mail, on April 18, 2013, on the following at the address shown:

The Honorable Robert Sondgeroth
Regional Superintendent of Schools, Whiteside County
1001 West 23rd Street
Sterling IL 61081
bsondgeroth@whitesideroe.org

Jessica Riddick
Assistant General Counsel
IN THE MATTER OF THE
SUSPENSION OF THE
TEACHING CERTIFICATE of
AARON C. BUSER
Certificate No. 1716690 (Type 10)

VOLUNTARY SURRENDER OF CERTIFICATE

WHEREAS Section 21-14 of the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/21-14) provides that any teaching and administrative certificate may be voluntarily surrendered by the certificate holder:

WHEREAS Section 21-14 further provides that a voluntarily surrendered certificate must be treated as a revoked certificate:

WHEREAS 23 Ill. Admin. Code 25.410 requires that all other states and possessions of the United States must be notified when a certificate is revoked in Illinois:

NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned AARON C. BUSER hereby knowingly, willfully and voluntarily surrenders his Certificate No. 1716690 (Type 10) and consents to its revocation subject to the notice provisions of 23 Ill. Admin. Code 25.410 set forth above.

AARON C. BUSER
Certificate Holder

Signed and sworn before me
this ___th day of ____________ 2013.

Notary Public