

**CONSIDERATION TO DISCIPLINE THE
LICENSE TO TEACH OF HEATH LANCE POTTER II, CASE # HR 20-004**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

Section 168.071, RSMo

Consent Item Action Item Report Item

PRIORITY AREA

Educator Recruitment & Retention

SUMMARY

Section 168.071, RSMo, and 5 CSR 20-400.230 authorize the State Board of Education to discipline certificates of license to teach, and provides the State Board of Education the authority to informally resolve hearings, appeals, or other matters involving certificate holders by consent agreement, agreed settlement, or voluntary surrender of the certificate of license to teach.

Heath Lance Potter II holds an initial professional certificate of license to teach in the areas of Health, grades K-12 (issued June 16, 2014); and physical education, grades K-12 (issued May 27, 2014).

While Mr. Potter was employed as a high school teacher in the McDonald County School District, he sought out friendships with female students via social media and on or around September 10, 2016, he sent a sexually explicit picture to a 16-year-old student. On November 14, 2016, Mr. Potter was charged with the Misdemeanor, Furnishing Pornographic Material to a Minor. On September 20, 2017, Mr. Potter pled guilty to the Misdemeanor, Harassment in the Second Degree. Mr. Potter was sentenced to one year of incarceration and received a suspended execution of sentence. Mr. Potter was placed on two years of supervised probation.

On May 29, 2020, a settlement agreement between the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Heath Lance Potter II was received. The parties agreed to submit this settlement agreement to the State Board of Education for consideration.

PRESENTER

Margaret K. Landwehr, Chief Counsel, will participate in the presentation and discussion of this agenda item.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends that the State Board of Education approve the settlement agreement and revoke Mr. Potter’s certificate pursuant to its authority under Section 168.071, RSMo.