

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

RECEIVED

In the Matter of the Suspension)
)
or Revocation of the)
)
Educator Certificate of)
)
Douglas A. Browne)
)
Certificate 245556)
_____)

JUN 20 2012

State Dept. of Education
CONSENT ORDER OF General Counsel

PUBLIC REPRIMAND

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on July 11, 2012. On June 6, 2011, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice to Mr. Douglas A. Browne of the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. On June 13, 2011, Mr. Browne contacted the SCDE and informed the SCDE that he had received the notice letter and wished to pursue an alternative resolution to this matter. Mr. Browne has agreed to waive his right to a hearing and resolve this disciplinary matter by entering into a Consent Order of Public Reprimand, subject to the terms stated herein. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand.

Accepted

DB

Initial

6/17/12

Date

Douglas A.
Browne
245556

FINDINGS OF FACT

The State Board has jurisdiction of this matter, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004), S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004), and 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2011).

Mr. Browne holds an initial educator certificate and has one and one half years of teaching experience. The Charleston County School District (District) employed Mr. Browne under an induction contract for the 2009–2010 school year. During the 2010–2011 school year, The District employed Mr. Browne under an annual contract as an eighth grade teacher at St. Andrews Middle School. He also served as a volunteer baseball and basketball coach. On October 20, 2010, the District terminated Mr. Browne

for his violation of District Policy GBEB Employee Conduct and District Policy GBEBB Employee Conduct with Students. The District found that Mr. Browne demonstrated aggressive physical contact with students and failed to conduct himself appropriately and act as a role model fostering positive, cooperative associations pursuant to District policy. Mr. Browne appealed his termination to the Superintendent. On January 26, 2011, the hearing concerning Mr. Browne's termination was conducted and the Superintendent upheld the termination.

On June 6, 2011, the SCDE sent notice to Mr. Browne of the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. On June 13, 2011, Mr. Browne received the notice as evidenced by a signed postal receipt bearing his signature. Mr. Browne contacted the SCDE and informed the SCDE that he had received the notice letter and wished to pursue an alternative resolution in lieu of a hearing. On June 21, 2011, the SCDE received a letter of explanation from Mr. Browne. On January 26, 2012, the District provided SCDE with additional information concerning this matter. Mr. Browne has admitted that he failed to follow District policies and procedures. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004), S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004), 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2011). Just cause includes "unprofessional conduct." S. C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2011). The State Board finds that the information presented supports its determination that just cause does not exist to suspend or revoke the educator certificate of Mr. Browne; however, the evidence presented demonstrates that Mr. Browne engaged in unprofessional conduct in this matter by failing to follow District procedures and that just cause exists for the issuance of a Public Reprimand by the State Board.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the State Board hereby issues a Public Reprimand to Douglas A. Browne, certificate 245556. The Public Reprimand shall be reported to all school districts in South Carolina with the grounds listed as

Accepted

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Initial

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Date

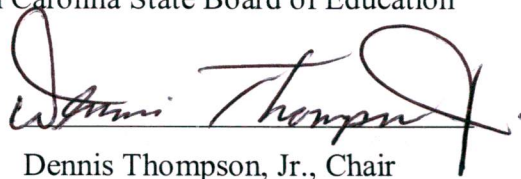
Douglas
A.
Browne
245556

“unprofessional conduct.” The Order of Public Reprimand shall be posted on the SCDE’s website and shall be maintained as a public record in the SCDE’s Office of General Counsel.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED

South Carolina State Board of Education

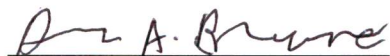
By:


Dennis Thompson, Jr., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

July 11, 2012

I, Douglas A. Browne, SC Educator Certificate 245556, do hereby agree to the proposed Consent Order of Public Reprimand, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board for approval on Wednesday, July 11, 2012.


Douglas A. Browne

6/17/12
Date