

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Voluntary	)	
	)	
Surrender of the Educator	)	CONSENT ORDER OF
	)	PERMANENT VOLUNTARY
Certificate of Megan M. Snipes	)	SURRENDER
	)	
Certificate 256599	)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on June 11, 2014. On January 9, 2014, in accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2004), § 59-5-10 (2004), and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) requested that the Chair of the State Board summarily suspend the educator certificate of Megan M. Snipes, certificate 256599, as a result of allegations and her admission that she engaged in an inappropriate relationship of a sexual nature with a male student in Beaufort, South Carolina. The SCDE sent notice to Ms. Snipes on January 9, 2014. On January 13, 2014, Ms. Snipes received the notice as evidenced by a signed postal receipt bearing her signature. Ms. Snipes' legal counsel contacted the SCDE and informed the SCDE that Ms. Snipes desired to waive her right to a hearing and to enter into a Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender of her educator certificate 256599, effective June 11, 2014.

Megan M.
Snipes
256599

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FINDINGS OF FACT

The State Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (Rev. 2004) and S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (Rev. 2004)

Ms. Snipes holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate and has four years of experience as a school psychologist. She has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Ms. Snipes had been employed by the Beaufort County School District (District) as a school psychologist since 2011. During the 2013-2014 school year, the District employed Ms. Snipes at Battery Creek High School (School). On December 20, 2013, the District placed Ms. Snipes on administrative leave following an investigation into allegations that Ms. Snipes had been involved in a sexual relationship with a male student at the School. On January 7, 2014, Ms. Snipes resigned from her position with the District.

On December 20, 2013, Ms. Snipes was arrested in Beaufort, South Carolina, on criminal charges, following a law enforcement investigation into allegations that Ms. Snipes, while employed as a teacher at the School, had engaged in inappropriate communication and physical contact of a sexual nature with a sixteen year old male student who was a student at the school.

On January 9, 2014, in accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2004), § 59-5-10 (2004), and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the SCDE requested that the Chair of the State Board summarily suspend Ms. Snipes' educator certificate, certificate 256599, as a result of allegations and her admission that she engaged in an inappropriate relationship of a sexual nature with a male student in Beaufort, South Carolina. The SCDE sent notice to Ms. Snipes on January 9, 2014. On January 13, 2014, Ms. Snipes received the notice as evidenced by a signed postal receipt bearing her signature. Ms. Snipes' legal counsel contacted the SCDE and informed the SCDE that Ms. Snipes desired to waive her right to a hearing and to enter into a Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender of her educator certificate 256599, effective June 11, 2014.

Ms. Snipes agrees to the permanent surrender of her South Carolina educator certificate 256599 subject to the following conditions: (1) her educator certificate will become permanently invalid and permanently revoked immediately upon the approval by the State Board of the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender; (2) she has waived her right to a hearing and understands that the terms set forth are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review; and (3) she understands that the permanent surrender of his educator certificate will be reported to all school districts in South Carolina and the NASDTEC Clearinghouse as a permanent voluntary surrender and permanent revocation.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). Just cause includes "unprofessional conduct, immorality, any conduct involving moral turpitude and evident unfitness for position for which employed." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 2 S.C. Code Regs 43-58 (Supp. 2011). The State Board

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finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE demonstrates that Ms. Snipes engaged in unprofessional conduct, immorality, conduct involving moral turpitude and demonstrated evident unfitness for position for which employed as a result of her inappropriate communication and physical contact of a sexual nature with a sixteen year old male student who was a student at the school.

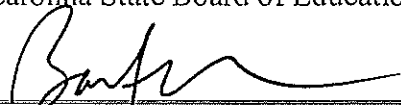
The evidence presented supports the State Board's decision to accept the permanent voluntary surrender of educator certificate 256599, issued under the name of Megan M. Snipes, and to permanently revoke and render permanently invalid Ms. Snipes' educator certificate effective June 11, 2014.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender is accepted and the educator certificate of Megan M. Snipes, certificate 256599, is hereby declared permanently invalid and permanently revoked. The permanent voluntary surrender and revocation of the educator certificate of Megan M. Snipes, certificate 256599 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By:


Barry F. Bolen, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
June 11, 2014

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I, Megan M. Snipes, S.C. Educator Certificate 256599, understand there has been an investigation concerning alleged violations of the laws and regulations governing the practice of education certificate holders and that I have waived my right to a hearing in this matter. I understand that the terms set forth in this Consent Agreement are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review; and I hereby freely, knowingly and voluntarily permanently surrender my educator certificate to the South Carolina State Board of Education. I hereby acknowledge that this permanent surrender shall have the same effect as a permanent revocation of my certificate. I knowingly forfeit and relinquish all right, title and privilege of holding myself out as and being able to practice as an educator in the public schools in the State of South Carolina. I agree that I will not serve as a volunteer or be employed as an educator, paraprofessional, aide, substitute teacher, band teacher, coach, or in any other position in a public school in the State of South Carolina. I agree to the proposed Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender, consisting of four pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the South Carolina State Board of Education on June 11, 2014.

Megan M. Snipes
Megan M. Snipes

5/19/14
Date