

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension)
)
or Revocation of the Educator)
)
Certificate of William Lonton Lenard)
)
Certificate 216805)

**CONSENT ORDER OF
SUSPENSION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on November 12, 2014. On September 29, 2014, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice to William Lonton Lenard of the possible suspension of his administrative certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. Mr. Lenard received the notice letter as evidenced by a postal receipt bearing his signature. After receiving the notice on October 18, 2014, Mr. Lenard requested a hearing in this matter. Prior to the hearing, Mr. Lenard informed the SCDE that he had agreed to waive his right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Suspension. After considering the information presented by the SCDE, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Mr. Lenard's Secondary Principal and Secondary Supervisor certificate for a period of six (6) months, commencing on November 12, 2014, and ending on May 15, 2015.

Accepted: William Lonton Lenard 216805  Initial Here 11/12/14 Date

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Lenard holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over eleven years of teaching experience. He has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board.

Mr. Lenard had been employed by Lexington County School District Two (District) since 2008. Mr. Lenard was issued a contract to work as an Assistant Principal for the 2013-2014 school year at Airport High School. Mr. Lenard resigned during his contract obligation period with the District, after being placed on administrative leave with pay, pending the outcome of an investigation related to failure to follow the

District's policy concerning high school student discipline (Board Policy JKAA). The District Board of Education voted to accept his resignation on April 10, 2014.

Mr. Lenard acknowledges that he has engaged in unprofessional conduct by exercising poor judgment in failing to follow the District's policy related to high school student discipline (Board Policy JKAA) with respect to two senior students. He waives his right to a hearing and understands that the terms set forth are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. Mr. Lenard consents to the suspension of his Secondary Principal and Secondary Supervisor certificate for a period of six (6) months, commencing on November 12, 2014, and ending on May 15, 2015. Mr. Lenard will retain his Mathematics certification.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2011). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-2-160 (2004). The State Board finds that the evidence presented, which is undisputed by Mr. Lenard, demonstrates that Mr. Lenard engaged in unprofessional conduct, as a result of his poor judgment and failure to follow District policy related to high school student discipline (Board Policy JKAA) with respect to two senior students and that just cause exists to suspend Mr. Lenard's Secondary Principal and Secondary Supervisor certificate for a period of six (6) months, commencing on November 12, 2014, and ending on May 15, 2015. The evidence presented supports the State Board's decision to accept the Consent Order of Suspension.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the Consent Order of Suspension is accepted and the Secondary Principal and Secondary Supervisor certificate of William Lonton Leonard is hereby suspended for a period of six (6) months, commencing on November 12, 2014, and ending on May 15, 2015. The suspension of Mr. Lenard's Secondary Principal and Secondary Supervisor certificate shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order. Mr. Lenard shall retain his teaching certificate in Mathematics and may continue teaching during the suspension set forth herein, as his remaining

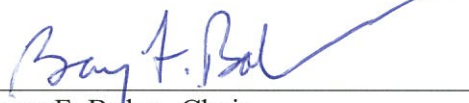
Accepted:
William
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Lenard
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certification allows. Mr. Lenard agrees that he will not serve in any administrative capacity until the suspension period has ended and his Secondary Principal and Secondary Supervisor certificate has been reinstated.

If Mr. Lenard desires to have his educator certificate reinstated at the conclusion of the suspension period, he shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Services. Mr. Lenard must also meet all certification requirements in effect at the time he requests reinstatement and shall be responsible for the payment of all applicable reinstatement fees.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

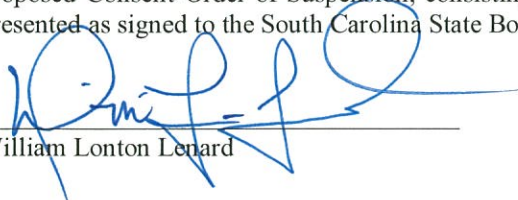


Barry F. Bolen, Chair

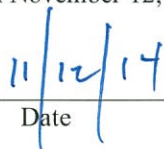
Columbia, South Carolina

November 12, 2014

I, William Lonton Lenard, S.C. Educator Certificate 216805, have read the Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of three pages, and I freely and voluntarily agree to the terms set forth therein. I also agree that I will not serve as an administrator or in any administrative position in a public school in the State of South Carolina during this suspension period and will only be employed as a Mathematics teacher. I agree to the proposed Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented as signed to the South Carolina State Board of Education on November 12, 2014.



William Lonton Lenard



Date