

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Voluntary)
Surrender of the Educator Certificate)
Of Stephanie Marie Henderson)
Certificate 172106)

CONSENT ORDER

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on April 12, 2016. On December 18, 2015, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice to Ms. Stephanie Marie Henderson that the State Board would meet to make a determination regarding disciplinary action of her South Carolina educator certificate based on the provisions of S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (Rev. 2004), for unprofessional conduct by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. On December 21, 2015, Ms. Henderson received the notice as evidence by a signed receipt. On December 30, 2015, Ms. Henderson, contacted SCDE to request a hearing. Prior to scheduling the hearing, Ms. Henderson informed the SCDE that she desired to waive her right to a hearing and seek an alternative resolution to this matter. Ms. Henderson has agreed to voluntarily surrender her administrative certifications in Elementary Principal and Secondary Principal, effective April 12, 2016. Ms. Henderson will retain her certifications in Elementary, General Mathematics, and Middle Level Mathematics with no restrictions or conditions.

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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) S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (Rev. 2004).

Ms. Henderson holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate and has over twenty-two years of teaching experience. She has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Ms. Henderson had been employed by the Oconee County School District (District) since 2006 as an Assistant Principal at West Oak High School (School). Ms. Henderson resigned from the District, effective November 1, 2015.

On June 30, 2015, a student reported to Ms. Henderson that another student and a male administrator were allegedly engaged in an inappropriate relationship. The student informed Ms. Henderson that questionable text messages had allegedly been exchanged between the other student and the male administrator and that some pictures had also been allegedly sent by this student to the male administrator. Ms. Henderson failed to immediately report this matter and did not notify District administration until July 23, 2015. The District promptly investigated the matter and placed Ms. Henderson on administrative leave, effective August 5, 2015.

On December 18, 2015, the SCDE sent notice to Ms. Henderson via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, that the State Board would meet to make a determination regarding disciplinary action of her South Carolina educator certificate based on the provisions of S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (Rev. 2004), for unprofessional conduct. On December 21, 2015, Ms. Henderson received the notice as evidenced by a signed postal receipt bearing her signature. On December 30, 2015, Ms. Henderson contacted SCDE to request a hearing. Prior to scheduling the hearing, Ms. Henderson informed the SCDE that she desired to waive her right to a hearing and seek an alternative resolution to this matter. Ms. Henderson agreed to enter into this Consent Order of Voluntary Surrender of her administrative certifications in Elementary Principal and Secondary Principal, effective April 12, 2016. Ms. Henderson will retain her certifications in Elementary, General Mathematics, and Middle Level Mathematics with no restrictions or conditions.

Ms. Henderson agrees to the surrender of her administrative certifications Elementary Principal and Secondary Principal, subject to the following conditions: (1) her Elementary Principal and Secondary Principal administrative certifications will become invalid immediately upon the approval by the State Board of the Consent Order of Voluntary Surrender; and (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.

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 (Rev. 2004); S.C. Code Ann.

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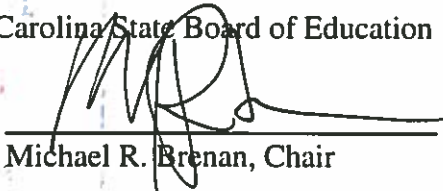
§ 59-25-160 (Rev. 2004). Just cause includes "unprofessional conduct and evident unfitness for position for which employed." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (Rev. 2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs 43-58 (2011). The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE demonstrates that Ms. Henderson engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of her failure to report substantial evidence of an inappropriate relationship between a male administrator and a student. The evidence presented supports the State Board's decision to accept the voluntary surrender of the administrative certifications of Elementary Principal and Secondary Principal, issued under the name of Stephanie Marie Henderson, effective April 12, 2016.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the Consent Order of Voluntary Surrender is accepted and the administrative certifications of Elementary Principal and Secondary Principal of Stephanie Marie Henderson, are hereby declared invalid.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By:

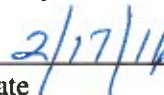

Michael R. Brennan, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
April 12, 2016

I, Stephanie Marie Henderson, S.C. Educator Certificate 172106, 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 surrender my administrative certifications of Elementary Principal and Secondary Principal to the South Carolina State Board of Education. I agree to the proposed Consent Order of Voluntary Surrender, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the South Carolina State Board of Education on April 12, 2016


Stephanie Marie Henderson

Date


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