

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of Action Against)
)
the Educator Certificate)
)
of Arthur B. Elliott)
)
Certificate 169066)

**CONSENT ORDER OF
PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on June 14, 2016. On April 1, 2016, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice to Arthur B. Elliott regarding the possible disciplinary action of his educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. After receiving the notice Mr. Elliott's attorney informed the SCDE that Mr. Elliott had agreed to waive his right to a hearing and accept a public reprimand. After considering the information presented by the SCDE, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Arthur B. Elliott holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has twenty-three years of teaching experience. Mr. Elliott has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Mr. Elliott has been employed with the Beaufort County School District (District) since 1993 and is an eighth grade language arts teacher at Robert Smalls International Academy. On or about September 14, 2015, Mr. Elliott allegedly struck and cursed at a student while disciplining the student. The District placed Mr. Elliott on administrative leave from September 17, 2015, until October 8, 2015, when he received a reprimand from the District. He has continued his employment with the District and denies any wrongdoing in this instance.

On April 1, 2016, the SCDE sent notice to Mr. Elliott regarding possible disciplinary action against his educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. After receiving the notice, Mr. Elliott's attorney informed the SCDE that Mr. Elliott had agreed to waive his right to a hearing and to resolve this disciplinary

Accepted:
Arthur B.
Elliott
169066

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A. B.

Date 6/14/16

matter by entering into this Consent Order of Public Reprimand, subject to the following terms: (1) a Public Reprimand shall be issued by the State Board, (2) the Public Reprimand shall be reported to all school districts in South Carolina with the grounds listed as "unprofessional conduct," and (3) the Consent 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. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand with the terms set forth above.

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); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). 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 evidence presented supports its conclusion that just cause does not exist to suspend or revoke the educator certificate of Arthur B. Elliott and that the issuance of a Public Reprimand to Mr. Elliott by the State Board is an appropriate sanction in this matter.

The State Board finds that the record outlined above demonstrates that Mr. Elliott engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of the incident in which Mr. Elliott allegedly slapped and used profanity towards a student. Mr. Elliott denies these allegations.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the Consent Order of Public Reprimand is accepted and issued to Arthur B. Elliott, certificate 169066. The Public Reprimand will be reported to 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

Michael R. Brennan, Chair

Accepted:
Arthur B.
Elliott
169066

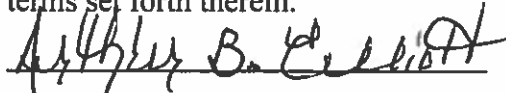
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A. B. E.

Date 6/14/16

Columbia, South Carolina
June 14, 2016

I, Arthur B. Elliott, S.C. Educator Certificate 169066, have read the Consent Order of Public Reprimand, consisting of three pages, and I freely and voluntarily agree to the terms set forth therein.


Signature


Date