

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension)
)
or Revocation of the)
)
Educator Certificate of)
)
Heather L. Myers)
)
Certificate 171264)
_____)

**CONSENT ORDER OF
PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

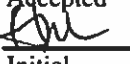
SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on May 11, 2016. On April 1, 2016, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) discussed the pending disciplinary matter regarding Ms. Heather L. Myers' South Carolina educator certificate 171264 with her. Ms. Myers informed the SCDE that she desired to waive her right to a hearing and pursue an alternative resolution in this matter. She has agreed to enter into this Consent Order of Public Reprimand. On April 4, 2016, the SCDE sent Ms. Myers a notice letter and the Consent Order of Public Reprimand by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Heather L. Myers holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate that is valid from July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2024, in the areas of English and French with an endorsement in Gifted and Talented. Ms. Myers has twenty-one years of teaching experience and has earned National Board Certification in World Languages. She has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board.

Ms. Myers had been employed by the Lancaster County School District (District) as a French teacher at A.R. Rucker Middle School. She also volunteered with the Lancaster Children's Home, serving as a mentor to abandoned and neglected children. On January 26, 2016, the District placed Ms. Myers on administrative leave after she admitted she had permitted a sixteen-year-old minor from the Lancaster Children's Home

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to taste alcohol while she was acting in loco parentis of the minor the previous Christmas day. The minor had no family to visit at Christmas so Ms. Myers invited the minor to spend Christmas with her after obtaining permission from the Lancaster Children's Home. On February 2, 2016, Ms. Myers was arrested for giving alcohol to a minor. While these charges are still pending, Ms. Myers has admitted to her poor judgment in this matter. On the day of her arrest, Ms. Myers sent a letter of resignation to the District. The District accepted her resignation, effective February 2, 2016.

On April 1, 2016, the SCDE discussed the pending disciplinary action involving Ms. Myers' South Carolina educator certificate 171264 with her. Ms. Myers informed the SCDE that she desired to waive her right to a hearing and pursue an alternative resolution in this matter. She acknowledged her unprofessional conduct and lapse in judgment. On April 4, 2016, the SCDE sent Ms. Myers a notice letter and Consent Order of Public Reprimand by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. Ms. Myers received these documents and returned the signed Consent Order of Public Reprimand to SCDE.

Ms. Myers has agreed to waive her right to a hearing and to resolve this disciplinary 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

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revoke the educator certificate of Heather L. Myers; however the evidence presented, which is undisputed by Ms. Myers, demonstrates that Ms. Myers engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of her admission of giving alcohol to a minor. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the issuance of a Public Reprimand to Ms. Myers by the State Board.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the State Board hereby issues a Public Reprimand to Heather L. Myers, certificate 171264. The Public Reprimand shall be reported to all school districts in South Carolina with the grounds listed as "unprofessional conduct." This Consent Order of Public Reprimand shall be posted on the SCDE's web site 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

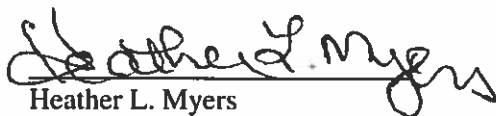
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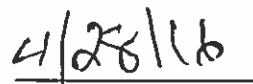
Michael R. Brennan, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

May 11, 2016

I, Heather L. Myers, SC Educator Certificate 171264, 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, May 11, 2016.


Heather L. Myers


Date