

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension	)	
	)	
of the Educator Certificate of	)	CONSENT ORDER OF SUSPENSION
	)	
Stanford D. Adams,	)	(BREACH OF CONTRACT)
	)	
<u>Certificate 196781</u>	)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on June 13, 2017. On May 16, 2017, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) served Stanford Drew Adams a notice of his right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of his South Carolina educator certificate, by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. On May 23, 2017, Mr. Adams contacted the SCDE, confirmed that he had received the notice via certified mail, and stated he agreed to waive his right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Suspension.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Mr. Adams' educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on June 13, 2017, and ending on June 12, 2018.

FINDINGS OF FACT

This case concerns a formal complaint by the Greenville County School District (District) recommending the suspension of the educator certificate of Stanford Drew Adams for breach of contract. The State Board has jurisdiction in this matter, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (Rev. 2004) and S.C. Code Ann § 59-25-530 (Rev. 2004).

Mr. Adams holds a South Carolina educator certificate and has over seventeen years of teaching experience. On April 18, 2016, Mr. Adams signed a Contractual Agreement with the District to serve as a teacher at Taylors Elementary School for the 2016-2017 school year. On February 15, 2017, Mr. Adams notified his principal that he was resigning from the District effective February 24, 2017. On March 7, 2017, the District informed Mr. Adams that he was not duly released from his contract and that a formal complaint would be filed with the State Board once approved by the School Board. Mr. Adams did not return to his position after February 24, 2017. On March 28, 2017, the Board of Trustees of the Greenville School District

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took official action to approve the reporting of his breach of contract to the State Board of Education. On May 11, 2017, the District reported this matter to SCDE, requesting that the State Board take disciplinary action on Mr. Adams' educator certificate.

Mr. Adams was noticed of his right to a hearing and he subsequently agreed to waive his right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Suspension. In conversation with the SCDE, Mr. Adams regrets he had to breach his contract with the District.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Mr. Adams breached his contract with the District, and that just cause exists to suspend Mr. Adams' for a period of one year, commencing on June 13, 2017, and ending on June 12 2018.

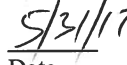
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (Rev. 2004). Just cause includes, *inter alia*, "unprofessional conduct" and "wilful violation of the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (3) and (4) (Rev. 2004). Pursuant to 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2) and (14) (2011), the State Board of Education has the legal authority, *inter alia*, to suspend a certificate for "wilful neglect of duty" and "failure to comply with the provisions of a contract without the written consent of the local school board." The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Mr. Adams breached his contract without the consent and/or approval of the District. The evidence presented further supports the State Board's determination that just cause exists to suspend the educator certificate of Mr. Adams for a period of one year, commencing on June 13, 2017, and ending on June 12, 2018.

The suspension of Mr. Adams' educator certificate 196781 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.

(signature page attached)

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South Carolina State Board of Education

By: 
Ivan Randolph, Ph.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
June 13, 2017

I, Stanford D. Adams, SC Educator Certificate 196781, understand there has been an investigation concerning alleged violations of the laws and regulations governing the practice of educator certificate holders and that I have waived my right to a hearing in this matter. I agree that during the period of suspension, I will not serve as a volunteer in any type of educator role or be employed as an educator, paraprofessional, aide, substitute teacher, coach or in any other position in a public school in the State of South Carolina. I understand the terms set forth in this Consent Order of Suspension are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. I agree to the terms of this Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board for approval on June 13, 2017.


Stanford D. Adams

5/31/17
Date