

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Discipline)
)
of the Educator Certificate of)
)
Ramonta Andre Lee)
)
Certificate 249250)

CONSENT ORDER OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on September 12, 2017. On June 29, 2017, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Ramonta Andre Lee a notice informing him that the State Board would meet to make a determination regarding possible disciplinary action of his educator certificate, by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. After receiving the notice, Mr. Lee informed the SCDE that he 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

Mr. Lee holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over six years of teaching experience. He has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Mr. Lee was employed by Berkeley County School District One (District) as the band/string teacher at Phillip Simmons Middle School (School) for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years.

On December 13, 2016, the Principal of the School sent a letter to the Chief Human Resources Officer for the District, recommending Mr. Lee's termination following allegations that he had shown an inappropriate music video to students and had previously made inappropriate comments in the classroom. Mr. Lee does not deny these allegations and regrets that he used poor judgment. After considering the information presented by the SCDE, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand.

Mr. Lee acknowledges that he has engaged in unprofessional conduct by showing the inappropriate music video and using poor judgment in his comments in his classroom.

Ramonta
Andre Lee
249250

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Mr. Lee waives his right to a hearing and understands that the terms set forth are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. Mr. Lee consents to the public reprimand, subject to the following terms: (1) a Public Reprimand shall be issued by the State Board, (2) shall enroll in a SCDE approved class in classroom management, (3) the Public Reprimand shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all school districts in South Carolina, and (4) the Consent Order of Public Reprimand shall be posted on the SCDE's website and will 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.

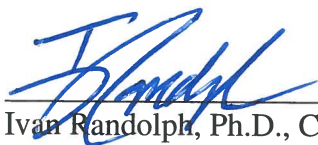
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"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 (Rev. 2004); The State Board may, for just cause, issue a public reprimand. 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2011). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-2-160 (Rev. 2004). 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 Ramonta Andre Lee and that the issuance of a Public Reprimand to Mr. Lee by the State Board is an appropriate sanction in this matter. The State Board finds that the record outlined above demonstrates that Mr. Lee engaged in unprofessional conduct by showing an inappropriate music video and his previous inappropriate comments in his class.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the Consent Order of Public Reprimand is accepted and issued to Ramonta Andre Lee, certificate 249250. This public reprimand of Mr. Lee's educator certificate 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.

South Carolina State Board of Education



Ivan Randolph, Ph.D., Chair

Ramonta
Andre Lee
249250

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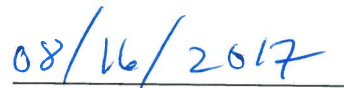
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I, Ramonta Andre Lee, S.C. Educator Certificate 249250, understand there has been an investigation concerning alleged violations of the laws and regulations governing the practice of educator certificate holders and that I have waived my right to a hearing in this matter. I understand that the terms set forth in this Consent Order of Public Reprimand are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. I have read the Consent Order of Public Reprimand, consisting of three pages, and I freely and voluntarily agree to the terms set forth therein. I understand that this Order will be presented as signed to the South Carolina State Board of Education on September 12, 2017.



Ramonta Andre Lee



Date