

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension of)
)
the Certificate of Educator)
)
Dedra H. Kiser)
)
Certificate 225540)

**CONSENT ORDER OF
SUSPENSION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 14, 2018. On July 29, 2016, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice to Ms. Kiser, by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, informing her that the State Board would meet to make a determination regarding the possible discipline of her educator certificate. Ms. Kiser's attorney requested that this matter be held in abeyance as Ms. Kiser appealed employment actions related to the case. The employment action has been resolved and Ms. Kiser has agreed to enter into this Consent Order of Suspension of her educator certificate 225540, which will suspend her certificate retroactively from September 29, 2014, and, upon the approval of the State Board, end the suspension on September 29, 2018. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to continue the suspension of Ms. Kiser's educator certificate until September 29, 2018.

Dedra H.
Kiser
225540

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Date

[Signature]
7-27-18

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Kiser holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate and has over nine years of teaching experience in South Carolina. She had been employed by the Spartanburg County School District Seven (District) as a math teacher and assistant cross country coach at Spartanburg High School (School). Ms. Kiser was placed on administrative leave on September 29, 2014, after she was reported to the District for reckless driving while driving the girls cross country team to an out of town event. During the incident, Ms. Kiser was taken into police custody and the students were detained until their parents could appear. On November 19, 2015, Ms. Kiser pled Nolo Contendere to reckless driving.

The District subsequently terminated Ms. Kiser's employment and Ms. Kiser appealed her termination. Her attorney requested that this matter be held in abeyance during the judicial appeal process. On November 23, 2015, the Court of Common Pleas for

the Seventh Judicial Circuit affirmed the District School Board's decision to terminate Ms. Kiser's employment. Mr. Kiser appealed the Order of the Court of Common Pleas to the South Carolina Court of Appeals. On May 16, 2018, the South Carolina Court of Appeals upheld the ruling of the Court of Common Pleas and the District School Board's decision to terminate Ms. Kiser based on evident unfitness for teaching. The District asserted that Ms. Kiser's reckless driving demonstrated a complete disregard for the safety and welfare of the students entrusted to her care.

Ms. Kiser's attorney has informed the SCDE that she has not been working as a teacher since her dismissal from the District. The SCDE verified her employment status by reviewing official certification records. Ms. Kiser has agreed to waive her right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Suspension of her educator certificate 225540, which will suspend her certificate retroactively from September 29, 2014, and, upon the approval of the State Board, end the suspension on September 29, 2018.

After considering the evidence presented concerning this matter, the State Board approves the Consent Order of Suspension and suspends Ms. Kiser's educator certificate 225540 retroactively from September 29, 2014, until September 29, 2018.

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. 2017); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (Rev. 2017). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct and evident unfitness for position for which employed. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (Rev. 2017). The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE demonstrates that Ms. Kiser engaged in unprofessional conduct and demonstrated an evident unfitness for teaching by disregarding the safety and welfare of students in her care. The State Board finds that the information presented supports its conclusion that just cause exists to suspend the educator certificate of Dedra H. Kiser on the grounds of unprofessional conduct and evident unfitness for position.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Dedra H. Kiser, certificate 225540, is suspended retroactively from September 29, 2014, and shall continue to be suspended until September 29, 2018. If Ms. Kiser wishes to have her certificate

Dedra H.
Kiser
225540



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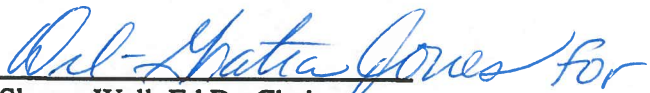
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reinstated at the conclusion of the period of suspension, she shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Services. Ms. Kiser shall be responsible for meeting all certification requirements in effect at the time she requests reinstatement of her certificate and for the payment of any applicable reinstatement fee. The suspension of Ms. Kiser 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

By: 
Sharon Wall, Ed.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
August 14, 2018

I, Dedra H. Kiser, S.C. Educator Certificate 225540, 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 Agreement are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. I hereby freely, knowingly and voluntarily agree to the suspension of my educator certificate by the South Carolina State Board of Education. I agree to the proposed Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the South Carolina State Board of Education on August 14, 2018.


Dedra H. Kiser

7-27-18
Date