

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the)
)
Disciplinary Action of the)
)
Educator Certificate of)
)
Susan M. Miller,)
)
Certificate 253783)

**CONSENT ORDER OF
PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 14, 2018. On September 27, 2017, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Susan M. Miller a notice letter by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail, regarding possible action against her educator certificate. After receiving the notice letter, Ms. Miller requested a private hearing in this matter. Prior to the scheduling of the hearing, Ms. Miller contacted the SCDE and advised the SCDE that she desired to waive her right to a hearing and pursue an alternative resolution in this matter. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand with SCDE approved boundary training.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Miller holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over eleven years of teaching experience. She has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Ms. Miller had been employed by the Greenville County School District (District) as a teacher at Dr. Phinnize J. Fisher Middle School (School). On April 29, 2017, the District placed Ms. Miller on administrative leave after it was alleged she had violated district policy by communicating with a student by text message.

Ms. Miller was initially allowed to return to work after she admitted to violating District policy while communicating with the student. The District reprimanded Ms. Miller for this conduct. Local law enforcement reviewed the evidence provided and did not find evidence for a criminal charge.

Susan M.
Miller
253783


Initial

6-28-18
Date

The documentation provided by the student's parents showed that Ms. Miller had contacted the student outside of school hours. Ms. Miller's contacts with the student were not educationally related and violated District policy regarding communication with students. The District found no evidence of an inappropriate relationship between Ms. Miller and the student. On July 1, 2017, Ms. Miller resigned from the District.

Ms. Miller 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 the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order, (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, and (4) Ms. Miller will complete the NASDTEC Prevention and Correction Course in professional boundaries and ethics. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand with the terms set forth above.

Susan M.
Miller
253783



Initial

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CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

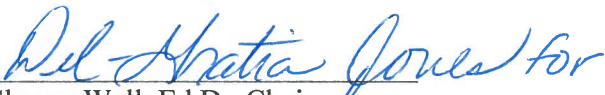
"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2016); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2016). The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the District would not support a conclusion that just cause exists to suspend or revoke the educator certificate of Susan M. Miller; however, the evidence that would be presented would support a conclusion that Ms. Miller engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of her inappropriate communications with a student and her violations of District policy regarding communication with students. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the issuance of a Public Reprimand to Ms. Miller by the State Board.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the State Board hereby issues a Public Reprimand to Susan M. Miller, certificate 253783. The Public Reprimand shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from

the date of this order 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. Ms. Miller will also be required to complete NASDTEC Prevention and Correction Course in professional boundaries and ethics within six months from the date of this order. Ms. Miller shall provide the SCDE with documentation of successful completion of this training.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education


Sharon Wall, Ed.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
August 14, 2018

I, Susan M. Miller, S.C. Educator Certificate 253783, 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 understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board for approval on Tuesday, August 14, 2018. I understand this Order will not become effective until approved by the State Board and, if not approved, it shall not constitute an admission against interest in this proceeding or prejudice the right of the State Board to adjudicate this matter.


Susan M. Miller

6-28-18
Date

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