

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the)
)
Disciplinary Action of the)
)
Educator Certificate of)
)
Gregory Walter Sweet,)
)
Certificate 190508)

**CONSENT ORDER OF
PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on June 12, 2018. On March 28, 2018, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Gregory Walter Sweet a notice letter by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail, regarding possible action against his educator certificate. After receiving the notice letter, Mr. Sweet contacted the SCDE and advised he desired to waive his 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.

Gregory
Walter
Sweet
190508

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Sweet holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over sixteen years of teaching experience. He has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Mr. Sweet was employed by Williston County School District 29 (District) as a principal at Williston-Elko Middle School (School). The District terminated Mr. Sweet's employment, effective December 11, 2017.

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Initial

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Mr. Sweet was initially placed on administrative leave on October 30, 2017, after allegations of inappropriate conduct with a former subordinate employee with the District. During the District's investigation, the District discovered that Mr. Sweet was not appropriately candid with District personnel. The District received information that Mr. Sweet had engaged in an inappropriate, consensual relationship with a subordinate employee before she left the District. The District received no allegations of inappropriate behavior occurring on school grounds where the subordinate was an

employee; however there is evidence that the relationship caused a disturbance at a professional conference where Mr. Sweet was present as a representative of the District.

Mr. Sweet has agreed to waive his 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, 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 (2016). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2011). 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 Gregory Walter Sweet; however, the evidence that would be presented would support a conclusion that Mr. Sweet engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of inappropriate relationship with a subordinate employee. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the issuance of a Public Reprimand to Mr. Sweet by the State Board.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the State Board hereby issues a Public Reprimand to Gregory Walter Sweet, certificate 190508. 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.

Gregory
Walter
Sweet
190508

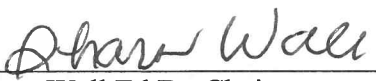
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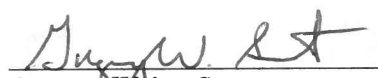
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South Carolina State Board of Education


Sharon Wall Ed.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
June 12, 2018

I, Gregory Walter Sweet, S.C. Educator Certificate 190508, 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, June 12, 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.


Gregory Walter Sweet

5/31/18
Date