

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Wendy C. Spears
Certificate 234959

CONSENT ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on June 9, 2020. On November 29, 2018, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice to Ms. Spears informing her that the State Board would meet to make a determination regarding the possible suspension of her administrative certificate, by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. Ms. Spears has agreed to waive her right to a hearing and enter into a Consent Order of Suspension of her administrator certificate 234959 for a period of one year. Ms. Spears retained her educator certificate at all times relevant to this matter.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to approve the Consent Order of Suspension suspending Ms. Spear's administrator certificate for a period of one year retroactive to May 11, 2019 and ending May 12, 2020.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Spears holds a valid professional educator and administrator certificate and has over ten years of educator experience. She has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. The record reflects positive performance reviews throughout her employment. Ms. Spears began employment with the Lexington County School District (District) in 2015. The District first employed Ms. Spears as a teacher, later promoting her to an assistant principal at Pelion Elementary School. The District conducted an investigation of Ms. Spears for an allegation that Ms. Spears had an inappropriate relationship with an employee on school grounds. Ms. Spears was placed on administrative leave on October 31, 2017. She subsequently resigned her position effective December 4, 2017. She has not worked as an administrator since that time.

Wendy Spears, Certificate 234959

WCS

Initial

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Date

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 (2004); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE demonstrates that Ms. Spears engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of her inappropriate relationship with an employee. The State Board finds that the information presented supports its conclusion that just cause exists to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of the administrator certificate of Wendy Spears, and to suspend Ms. Spear’s administrator certificate for a period of one year retroactively from May 11, 2019 and ending May 12, 2020.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the administrator certificate of Wendy Spears, certificate 234959, is suspended for a period of one year retroactively commencing May 11, 2019 and ending May 12, 2020. The suspension of Ms. Spear’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.

If Ms. Spears wishes to have her administrative certificate reinstated at the conclusion of the period of suspension, she shall make a written request to the SCDE’s Office of Educator Services and provide documentation that she has completed the SCDE approved professional boundaries training. Ms. Spears shall be responsible for meeting all certification requirements in effect at the time she requests reinstatement and for the payment of any applicable reinstatement fees. The suspension of Ms. Spear’s administrative certificate shall be reported to the NASDTEC

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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: s/Michael Brennan

Michael Brennan, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
June 9, 2020

I, Wendy C. Spears, S.C. Educator Certificate 234959, 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 Suspension are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. I have read the Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of three pages, and I freely and voluntarily agree to the terms set forth therein. I understand that this Order will be presented to the South Carolina State Board of Education for approval on Tuesday, June 9, 2020. I understand this Consent 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.

S/Wendy C. Spears

Wendy C. Spears

04/17/2020

Date