

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Sanford Antonio Miller
Certificate 905293

CONSENT ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on October 13, 2020. On May 29, 2020, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, to Sanford Antonio Miller concerning the pending action against educator certificate 905293. After receiving the notice letter, Mr. Miller's legal counsel contacted the SCDE and advised that he desired to waive his right to a hearing and wished to pursue an alternative resolution in this matter. Mr. Miller has agreed to this Consent Order of Suspension. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Mr. Miller's educator certificate for a period of six months, commencing on October 13, 2020, and ending on April 13, 2021. Mr. Miller will also complete the NASDTEC Prevention & Correction course prior to the reinstatement of his certification.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Miller holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over seven years of educator experience. At the time of the incident, Mr. Miller was employed by the Marlboro County School District (District) as an automotive technology teacher at Marlboro County High School.

Mr. Miller was placed on administrative leave on February 18, 2020, after a former student reported inappropriate communications she received from him. Specifically, after a student moved out-of-state, Mr. Miller sent her a friend request on the social media application Facebook. Mr. Miller interacted with the student on Facebook and asked her how she liked the State where she moved. Through Facebook, Mr. Miller sent the student an inappropriate video that depicted two females fighting where one of the women

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became exposed during the fight. Mr. Miller was subsequently contacted by the student's mother, who reported the matter to District administration. During the District investigation, it was discovered Mr. Miller gave the student twenty dollars as a birthday gift while she was a student at the School. In a meeting with District administration, Mr. Miller acknowledged it was a mistake to send the inappropriate video to the student. Mr. Miller resigned from the District, effective February 28, 2020.

Mr. Miller has agreed to waive his right to a hearing and to resolve this disciplinary matter by entering into an alternate resolution to the action against his educator certificate. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the consent order of suspension of Mr. Miller's educator certificate for six months, commencing on October 13, 2020, and ending on April 12, 2021. Mr. Miller will also complete the NASDTEC Prevention & Correction course.

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 (2017); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2017). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2017); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2017). The State Board finds that the evidence presented would support a conclusion that Mr. Miller engaged in unprofessional conduct as result of inappropriate communications with a female student. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Mr. Miller's educator certificate for a period of six months, commencing on October 13, 2020, and ending on April 13, 2021. Mr. Miller will also complete the NASDTEC Prevention & Correction course prior to the reinstatement of his certificate.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the educator certificate of Sanford Antonio Miller, certificate 905293, is suspended for a period of six months, commencing on October 13, 2020, and ending on April 13, 2021.

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If Mr. Miller wishes to have his educator certificate reinstated at the conclusion of the period of suspension, he shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Services. Prior to the reinstatement, Mr. Miller will submit proof of completing the NASDTEC Prevention & Correction course. Mr. Miller shall be responsible for meeting all certification requirements in effect at the time he requests reinstatement and for the payment of any applicable reinstatement fees. The Order of Suspension shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this orders with the grounds listed as "unprofessional conduct." This Consent Order of Suspension 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 IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

s/Michael Brennan

Michael Brennan, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
October 13, 2020

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I, Sanford Antonio Miller, S.C. Educator Certificate 905293, 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 four 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, October 13, 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. If approved by the State Board, I give the SCDE permission to use my electronic signature in the style of “/s/ name” for required website publication.

s.Sanford Antonio Miller
Sanford Antonio Miller

09/08/2020
Date