

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Shanna T. Pittman
Certificate 203875

CONSENT ORDER OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on October 13, 2020. On June 30, 2020, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, to Shanna T. Pittman concerning the pending action against educator certificate 203875. After receiving the notice letter, Ms. Pittman contacted the SCDE and advised that she desired to waive her right to a hearing and wished to pursue an alternative resolution in this matter. Ms. Pittman has agreed to this Consent Order of Public Reprimand. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Pittman holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate, has over eighteen years of educator experience, and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. At the time of the incident, Ms. Pittman was employed by Spartanburg School District Six (District) as a kindergarten teacher at Jesse Bobo Elementary School (School).

In December of 2018, Ms. Pittman left School grounds to run an errand. When she returned to the School, the principal smelled alcohol on her. Ms. Pittman admitted she drank an alcoholic beverage before returning to work. On January 14, 2019, Ms. Pittman submitted her resignation to the District, effective immediately. She has obtained proper treatment since the incident.

Shanna T. Pittman
203875
SP
Initial
08/28/20
Date

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the 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 (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 by the District would not support a conclusion that just cause exists to suspend or revoke the educator certificate of Shanna T. Pittman; however, the evidence that would be presented would support a conclusion that Ms. Pittman engaged in unprofessional conduct as result of reporting to work under the influence of alcohol. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the issuance of a Public Reprimand to Shanna T. Pittman.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is ordered that the State Board hereby issues a Public Reprimand to Shanna T. Pittman, certificate 203875. 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.

Shanna T. Pittman
203875
____SP____
Initial
____08/28/20____
Date

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AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

s/Michael Brennan

Michael Brennan, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
October 13, 2020

I, Shanna T. Pittman, S.C. Educator Certificate 203875, 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 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.

Shanna T. Pittman

Shanna T. Pittman

8/28/20

Date