

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Helen Marie Sisk
Certificate 263473

CONSENT ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on February 8, 2022. On April 30, 2020, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, to Helen Marie Sisk concerning the pending action against her educator certificate 263473. After Ms. Sisk received the notice, her legal counsel contacted the SCDE to request a hearing and to discuss an alternative resolution in the matter. Prior to the hearing in the matter, Ms. Sisk agreed to waive her right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Suspension of educator certificate 263473 for a period of two years. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Helen Marie Sisk, educator certificate 263473 for a period of two years, commencing on February 8, 2022 and ending on February 7, 2024.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Sisk holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over three years of educator experience. She has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Ms. Sisk was employed by the Berkeley County School District (District) as a special education teacher at Cane Bay High School (School).

On January 17, 2020, Ms. Sisk was placed on administrative leave following allegations she made inappropriate physical contact with a special needs student. Specifically, Ms. Sisk was addressing a situation where a special needs student was sitting in a chair and not responding to verbal or physical prompts. Ms. Sisk then tilted the chair and the student fell to the floor. The student did not suffer any injuries. During the

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s/HMS
Initial
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District's investigation in the matter, District staff substantiated the allegation. When confronted, Ms. Sisk admitted her conduct. Ms. Sisk maintains that she did not intend to harm the student. Ms. Sisk subsequently resigned in lieu of termination on January 24, 2020.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Helen Marie Sisk, educator certificate 263473 for a period of two years, commencing on February 8, 2022, and ending on February 7, 2024.

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 (Rev. 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 (2016). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Helen Marie Sisk engaged in unprofessional conduct by making inappropriate physical contact with a special needs student. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Ms. Sisk's educator certificate for a period of two years, commencing on February 8, 2022, and ending on February 7, 2024.

If Ms. Sisk wishes to have the certificate reinstated at the conclusion of the period of suspension, she shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Services. Ms. Sisk 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. Sisk'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.

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Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Helen Marie Sisk, certificate 263473, is suspended for a period of two years, commencing on February 8, 2022 and ending on February 7, 2024.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

s/Alan Walters
Alan Walters, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
February 8, 2022

I, Helen Marie Sisk, SC Educator Certificate 263473, 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 the terms set forth in this Consent Order of Suspension are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. I agree to the terms of this Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board for approval on February 8, 2022. 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. 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/Helen Marie Sisk
Helen Marie Sisk

1/6/2022
Date