

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Jimmy Duane Huff
Certificate 222830

**ORDER OF
DISMISSAL**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on March 14, 2023. On February 2, 2022, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Jimmy Duane Huff a notice letter by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail, regarding possible action against his educator certificate. Mr. Huff contacted the SCDE and timely requested a hearing. A hearing on the matter was held on February 1, 2023, at the SCDE. On February 13, 2023, the SCDE and Mr. Huff received the hearing officer's report and recommendation. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted on March 14, 2023, to dismiss the action and approved this Order of Dismissal.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Huff holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over thirteen years of experience. At the time of the incident, Mr. Huff was employed by the Laurens County School District (District) at Laurens High School (School).

The hearing officer considered three alleged instances of inappropriate conduct between Mr. Huff and students. Specifically, it was alleged that Mr. Huff provided money, food, and gifts to female students. Further, one student alleged an inappropriate relationship with Mr. Huff. The alleged incidents occurred in 2011, 2015, and one undated incident after 2015. The hearing officer found that there was insufficient evidence presented by the SCDE to support any action against Mr. Huff's educator certificate. The Hearing Officer determined there was no evidence presented of unprofessional, romantic, or sexual motive on the part of Mr. Huff. The Hearing Officer noted that the District did not discipline Mr. Huff after any of the incidents. The Hearing

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Officer found no evidence of “just cause” for disciplinary action against Mr. Huff’s educator certification.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted on March 14, 2023, to dismiss the action and approve this Order of Dismissal.

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 (2020); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2020). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2020); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2021). 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 Jimmy Duane Huff. The State Board further finds that no cause exists for action against Mr. Huff’s educator certification.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted on March 14, 2023, to dismiss the action and approve this Order of Dismissal.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

s/Crystal F. Stapleton, Ed.D.

Crystal F. Stapleton, Ed.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
March 14, 2023