

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Aaron Gabriel Railey
Certificate 275838

CONSENT ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on December 3, 2024. On May 21, 2024, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice via regular and certified mail, to Aaron Gabriel Railey concerning the pending action against educator certificate 275838. After Mr. Railey received the notice, he contacted the SCDE to discuss an alternative resolution. Mr. Railey agreed to waive his right to a hearing and enter this Consent Order of Suspension of educator certificate 275838 for a period of six months.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Mr. Railey's educator certificate for a period of six months commencing on December 3, 2024, and ending on June 2, 2025.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Aaron Gabriel Railey holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate. Mr. Railey has over six years of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. At the time of the allegations, Mr. Railey was employed by Lexington County School District One (District) as a production manager at White Knoll High School (School).

On or about November 9, 2022, Mr. Railey and another teacher were working together in the control booth of the School's Performing Arts Center to prepare sound and lighting for an upcoming school production. Mr. Railey and the other teacher engaged in inappropriate conversation that was shared over the school theater's intercom system. The inappropriate conversation included disparaging remarks about other teachers, students, and school board members, as well as comments characterized by witnesses as

Aaron Gabriel Railey

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s/AR

Initial

11/7/24

Date

discriminatory to other sexual orientations and members of differing gender identity. While Mr. Railey maintains he believed this to be a private conversation that was not being shared where others could hear it, he acknowledges that the conversation was inappropriate and should never have taken place.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Mr. Railey's educator certificate for a period of six months commencing on December 3, 2024, and ending on June 2, 2025.

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 demonstrates that Aaron Gabriel Railey engaged in unprofessional conduct by having an inappropriate conversation with a coworker on school grounds. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Mr. Railey's educator certificate for a period of six months, commencing on December 3, 2024, and ending on June 2, 2025.

If Mr. Railey wishes to have his certificate reinstated at the conclusion of the period of suspension, he shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Services. Mr. Railey 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 suspension of Mr. Railey's educator certificate shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days of the date of this order.

Aaron Gabriel Railey
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s/AR
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Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Aaron Gabriel Railey, certificate 275838, is suspended for a period of six months, commencing on December 3, 2024, and ending on June 2, 2025.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

s/David C. O'Shields
David C. O'Shields, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
December 3, 2024

I, Aaron Gabriel Railey, SC Educator Certificate 275838, 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 December 3, 2024.

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/Aaron Gabriel Railey
Aaron Gabriel Railey

11/7/24
Date