

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Pamela L. Burnette
Certificate 215780

CONSENT ORDER OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on October 8, 2024. On May 21, 2024, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Pamela L. Burnette a notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, to Pamela L. Burnette regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate 215780. After Ms. Burnette received the notice, she contacted the SCDE to discuss an alternative resolution. Ms. Burnette has agreed to waive her right to a hearing and enter this Consent Order of Public Reprimand of educator certificate 215780.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand of Ms. Burnette's educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Burnette holds a South Carolina educator certificate. She has over seventeen years of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. At the time of the incident, Ms. Burnette was employed by Spartanburg School District Five (District) as a teacher at Lyman Elementary School (School).

On or about April 12, 2022, Ms. Burnette told an administrator during her planning period that she wanted to slap them. On April 13, 2022, during a meeting with administration to discuss the interaction, Ms. Burnette conceded making the statement. She then began to yell and slammed a door when exiting the office. While Ms. Burnette maintains that she would not do anything to jeopardize her career, she acknowledges

Pamela L. Burnette
215780
s/PLB
Initial
9/9/24
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that her statement and behavior were inappropriate, and that she was under tremendous stress and felt defensive.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand of Pamela L. Burnette's educator certificate.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The State Board 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 "incompetence; willful neglect of duty; willful violation of the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education; unprofessional conduct; drunkenness; cruelty; crime against the law of this State or the United States; immorality; any conduct involving moral turpitude; dishonesty; evident unfitness for position for which employed; or sale or possession of narcotics." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2020); S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2021). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Ms. Burnette engaged in unprofessional conduct due to inappropriate interactions with her administrative team. The State Board further finds that just cause exists to publicly reprimand Ms. Burnette's educator certificate.

The public reprimand of Ms. Burnette's educator certificate 215780 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Pamela L. Burnette, certificate 215780, is publicly reprimanded.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina Board of Education

s/David C. O'Shields

David C. O'Shields, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
October 8, 2024

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s/PLB
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I, Pamela L. Burnette, SC Educator Certificate 215780, 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 Public Reprimand are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack, or judicial review. I agree to the terms of this Consent Order of Public Reprimand, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the South Carolina State Board of Education for approval on Tuesday, October 8, 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 have the SCDE permission to use my electronic signature in the style of "s/name" for required website publication.

S/Pamela L. Burnette
Pamela L. Burnette

9/9/24
Date

Pamela L. Burnette
215780
s/PLB
Initial
9/9/24
Date