

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension)
)
or Revocation of the Educator)
)
Certificate of Danny A. Crotts II)
)
Certificate 266993)

**CONSENT ORDER OF
SUSPENSION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

This matter comes before the South Carolina State Board of Education (hereinafter "State Board") on January 13, 2016. On February 27, 2015, the South Carolina Department of Education (hereinafter "SCDE") sent a notice letter of the possible suspension or revocation of South Carolina educator certificate 266993 to Danny A. Crotts II by certified mail, return receipt requested, based on the grounds of unprofessional conduct. Mr. Crotts received the notice letter and requested a hearing, but subsequently agreed to waive his right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Suspension for a period of one year beginning January 13, 2016, and ending January 12, 2017. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension and suspend the license of Mr. Crotts for a period of one year.

Danny A. Crotts 266993
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<u>1-2-16</u>
Date

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Crotts holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and over 10 years of teaching experience. Mr. Crotts was employed as a teacher and wrestling coach at White Knoll High School (hereinafter "School") in Lexington County School District One (hereinafter "District") beginning in 2014, until his termination on or about April 11, 2014.

On January 9, 2014, the District placed Mr. Crotts on administrative leave after receiving allegations that Mr. Crotts' training practices for the wrestling team were inappropriate. The District discovered that while demonstrating a wrestling hold, Mr. Crotts, cause a student to lose consciousness. He failed to report the incident to the athletic director or the athletic trainer. Mr. Crotts claims he informed the student's mother about the incident and she appeared unconcerned. Further, it was alleged that Mr. Crotts engaged in a game called "Slap Back," that involved a random slap from one participant to another intended to leave a temporary red mark. As part of this game, Mr. Crotts posted a picture of a red welt, shaped like a hand, on a student's lower back, on his Twitter account. Mr. Crotts has admitted to these incidents and claims that he did not think to report the loss of consciousness, because the student appeared fine. He further stated that "Slap Back" was a game he learned at wrestling training camp and that his posting the picture was not good judgment.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept this Consent Order of Suspension, effective on January 12, 2016.

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 (Rev. 2004). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (Rev. 2004); 2 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2011). The State Board finds that the evidence presented, which is undisputed by Mr. Crotts, demonstrates that Mr. Crotts engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of his inappropriate training practices while serving as he wrestling coach at the school. The State Board finds that

Danny A.
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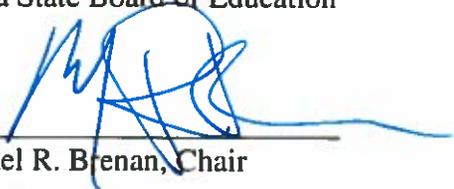
the information presented supports its conclusion that just cause exists to suspend the educator certificate of Danny A. Crotts II on the grounds of unprofessional conduct for a period of one year commencing on January 13, 2016, and ending on January 12, 2017.

NOW THEREFORE, it is ordered that the State Board accepts the Consent Order and the educator certificate of Danny A. Crotts II, certificate 266993, is hereby suspended for a period of one year, beginning January 13, 2016, and ending January 12, 2017. This action on certificate 266993 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order. Should Mr. Crotts wish to have his educator certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, he must meet all certification requirements and shall submit a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Services. Mr. Crotts shall be responsible for the payment of all applicable fees, including any reinstatement fees.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By:


Michael R. Brennan, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
January 13, 2016

I, Danny A. Crotts II, S.C. Educator Certificate 266993, hereby waive my right to a hearing in this matter. I have read and understood the terms set forth in this Consent Order. I agree that the findings of facts and conclusions of law contained in this Consent Order are true. I understand that the terms of this Consent Order, upon execution, are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. I hereby freely, knowingly and of my own accord, agree to the suspension of my educator certificate by the South Carolina State Board of Education. I understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board on January 13, 2016.


Danny A. Crotts II

1-2-16
Date