

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension)
)
or Revocation of the)
)
Educator Certificate of)
)
Alexis H. Johnson)
)
Certificate 218398)
_____)

**CONSENT ORDER OF
PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on March 14, 2012. On November 29, 2011, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice to Ms. Alexis H. Johnson of the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. On December 13, 2011, Ms. Johnson contacted the SCDE and informed the SCDE that she had received the notice letter and wished to pursue an alternative resolution to this matter. Ms. Johnson has agreed to waive her right to a hearing and resolve this disciplinary matter by entering into a Consent Order of Public Reprimand, subject to the terms stated herein. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The State Board has jurisdiction of this matter, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004), S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004), and 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (Supp 2011).

Ms. Johnson holds a professional educator certificate and has over ten years of teaching experience. She has no prior history of disciplinary action with the State Board. Ms. Johnson had been employed as a teacher by the Richland County School District One (District) since 2005. The District assigned Ms. Johnson to a teaching position at W. A. Perry Middle School (School) for the 2010-2011 school year. Ms. Johnson resigned from the District, effective October 25, 2010, following the District's investigation into allegations that Ms. Johnson allowed a fourteen year old former student to drive her car

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on school property and that she failed to notify school authorities or the police when she learned that the student had driven her car off campus without her permission and then returned it to school property with an empty gun under the seat. Ms. Johnson admitted she used poor judgment in allowing her former student to drive her car and that she failed to properly follow District procedures for reporting a weapon on campus.

Ms. Johnson stated that she was taking concession items to the school stadium and asked the former student to go with her to help unload the items. After the concession items were unloaded, Ms. Johnson was running late for a meeting and decided to let the former student drop her off at the front of the school. Ms. Johnson instructed the former student to drive the car back to the bottom of the hill, where Ms. Johnson's classroom was located and where the student's mother was waiting for the student. While Ms. Johnson attended the meeting, the former student disobeyed Ms. Johnson's instructions and drove her car off campus. He later returned Ms. Johnson's car to the school campus.

Ms. Johnson reprimanded the former student for taking her car off campus and proceeded to continue working with concessions during the game. As the game proceeded, a student pulled Ms. Johnson aside and told her to check her car. Ms. Johnson looked under her passenger seat and found a gun without a clip. Ms. Johnson stated that she immediately told the former student's mother about the incident and the student's mother asked Ms. Johnson to give the empty gun to her. The student's mother stated she would handle the situation with her son. Ms. Johnson then informed Coach Williams, who was a District employee, about the incident. Ms. Johnson, however, failed to follow the District procedures for reporting a weapon on campus. Law enforcement investigated the incident and no criminal proceedings were initiated in this matter. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand.

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CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004), S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004), 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (Supp 2011). Just cause includes unprofessional

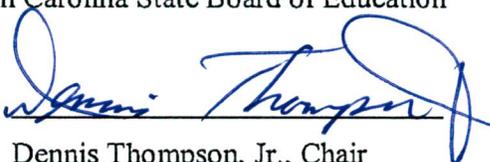
conduct. S. C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (Supp. 2011). The State Board finds that the information presented supports its determination that just cause does not exist to suspend or revoke the educator certificate of Ms. Johnson; however, the evidence presented demonstrates that Ms. Johnson engaged in unprofessional conduct in this matter by failing to follow District procedures for reporting a weapon on campus and that just cause exists for the issuance of a Public Reprimand by the State Board.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the State Board hereby issues a Public Reprimand to Alexis H. Johnson, certificate 218398. The Public Reprimand shall be reported to all school districts in South Carolina with the grounds listed as "unprofessional conduct." The Order of Public Reprimand shall be posted on the SCDE's web site and shall be maintained as a public record in the SCDE's Office of General Counsel.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

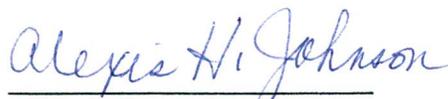
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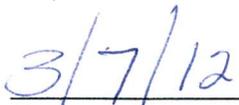

Dennis Thompson, Jr., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

March 14, 2012

I, Alexis H. Johnson, SC Educator Certificate 218398, do hereby agree to the proposed Consent Order of Public Reprimand, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board for approval on Wednesday, March 14, 2012.


Alexis H. Johnson


Date