

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension)
)
or Revocation of the Educator)
)
Certificate of Charles R. Johnson)
)
Certificate 196504)

**CONSENT ORDER OF
SUSPENSION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

This matter comes before the South Carolina State Board of Education (hereinafter "State Board") on August 13, 2014. On May 5, 2014, the South Carolina Department of Education (hereinafter "SCDE") sent a notice letter of the possible suspension or revocation of South Carolina educator certificate 196504 to Charles R. Johnson by certified mail, return receipt requested, based on the grounds of unprofessional conduct. Mr. Johnson received the notice letter as evidenced by a postal receipt bearing his signature. Mr. Johnson requested a hearing, but subsequently agreed to waive the hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Suspension. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Mr. Johnson's "Elementary Principal" and "Elementary Supervisor" certificates for a period of three years commencing on August 13, 2014, and ending on August 12, 2017.

Charles R. Johnson 196504
<i>CRJ</i> Initial Here
<u>7/24/14</u> Date

FINDINGS OF FACT

Charles R. Johnson has sixteen years of experience as a teacher and administrator. He holds a South Carolina certificate in the areas of "Elementary," "Elementary Principal," and "Elementary Supervisor."

Mr. Johnson was employed as the principal at Pritchardville Elementary School (hereinafter "School") in the Beaufort County School District (hereinafter "District")

during the 2013-2014 school year. Mr. Johnson resigned his position on September 19, 2013, following concerns regarding his conduct toward subordinate female employees and female applicants seeking employment with the District. These individuals alleged that Mr. Johnson had issued directives which they perceived to be sexually motivated and objectionable.

Mr. Johnson admits to issuing the directives, but denies that his conduct was sexually motivated. Nevertheless, Mr. Johnson concedes that his conduct was unprofessional and unbecoming of a school administrator, and agrees to the suspension of his "Elementary Principal" and "Elementary Supervisor" certifications for a period of three years beginning August 13, 2014 and ending on August 12, 2017. Mr. Johnson further agrees that he will not pursue additional supervisory certifications or supervisory positions with South Carolina public schools during this period; however, nothing in this Consent Order shall prevent or preclude Mr. Johnson from utilizing and/or maintaining his "Elementary" teaching certification during this three year suspension through whatever means normally allowed or required by the SCDE's Office of Educator Services. Accordingly, Mr. Johnson has agreed to waive his right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Suspension.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept this Consent Order of Suspension of Mr. Johnson's "Elementary Principal" and "Elementary Supervisor" certificate for a period of three years beginning on August 13, 2014, and ending on August 12, 2017.

Charles R.
Johnson
196504

CRJ
Initial Here

7/24/14
Date

The suspension of Mr. Johnson's educator certificate shall be reported to all school districts in South Carolina and the NASDTEC Clearinghouse within thirty days of this order with the reasons stated as "unprofessional conduct."

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board, upon careful review of the evidence presented, makes the following conclusions of law in this matter:

- (1) The State Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004), which provides "The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, revoke or suspend the certificate of any person."
- (2) Just cause is statutorily defined to include "Unprofessional conduct." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160(4) (2004).
- (3) The evidence demonstrates that Mr. Johnson committed unprofessional conduct by issuing questionable and objectionable directives to subordinate female employees.
- (4) The evidence presented supports the State Board's decision to accept this Consent Order and suspend the "Elementary Principal" and "Elementary Supervisor," certificate of Charles R. Johnson, certificate 196504, for a period of three years, effective August 13, 2014, and ending on August 12, 2017.

NOW THEREFORE, it is ordered that the State Board accepts the Consent Order and the "Elementary Principal" and "Elementary Supervisor" of Charles R. Johnson, certificate 196504, is hereby suspended. This action on certificate 196504 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order with the reasons stated as "unprofessional conduct."

When, at the conclusion of the suspension period, Mr. Johnson desires to have his “Elementary Principal” and “Elementary Supervisor” certificate reinstated, he shall make a written request to the SCDE’s Office of Educator Services. Mr. Johnson shall also meet all certification requirements in effect at the time he requests reinstatement and shall be responsible for the payment of all applicable reinstatement fees. Upon meeting all of the above referenced requirements, including the period of three years effective August 13, 2014, and ending on August 12, 2017, Mr. Johnson’s “Elementary Principal” and “Elementary Supervisor” certificate shall be reinstated.

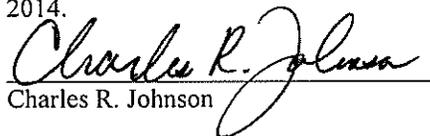
AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

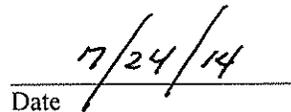
South Carolina State Board of Education

By: _____
Barry F. Bolen, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
August 13, 2014

I, Charles R. Johnson, S.C. Educator Certificate 196504, hereby waive my right to a hearing in this matter. With the assistance of legal counsel, 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 three (3) year suspension of my Elementary Principal and Elementary Supervisor certificate to the South Carolina State Board of Education. I understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board on August 13, 2014.


Charles R. Johnson


Date