

**BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

In the Matter of the Revocation )  
 )  
Or Suspension of the )  
 )  
Educator Certificate of )  
 )  
Charles Blake Peeler )  
 )  
Certificate 248370 )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

**CONSENT ORDER OF SUSPENSION**

**SUMMARY OF THE CASE**

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on June 11, 2014. On February 19, 2014, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice to Mr. Charles Blake Peeler of the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. On February 24, 2014, Mr. Peeler received the notice as evidenced by a signed receipt bearing his signature. On March 7, 2014, Mr. Peeler's attorney contacted the SCDE to discuss an alternative resolution of this matter in lieu of a hearing. After discussion, Mr. Peeler agreed to waive his right to a hearing and agreed to the suspension of his teaching certificate for a period of two years. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to approve the Consent Order of Suspension and suspend Mr. Peeler's educator certificate for a period of two years, commencing on June 11, 2014, and ending on June 10, 2016.

Accepted:
Initial Here: <u>CBP</u>
Date: <u>5/30/14</u>
Charles Blake Peeler 248370

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

The State Board has jurisdiction of this matter pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (Rev. 2004). Mr. Peeler holds a professional educator certificate and has over three years of teaching experience. He has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Mr. Peeler had been employed by the Cherokee County School District (District) since 2012. During the 2013-1014 school year, the District employed Mr. Peeler as a Physical Education Teacher at B.D. Lee Elementary School. In addition to teaching, Mr. Peeler served as an assistant football coach at Gaffney Middle School. Mr.

Peeler was placed on administrative leave beginning November 26, 2013, following an anonymous call alleging that Mr. Peeler had engaged in unprofessional conduct with the parent of a student at Gaffney Middle School. Mr. Peeler resigned from the District, effective December 5, 2013, following his acknowledgement that he had one inappropriate romantic encounter with the parent of a student in the locker room of Gaffney Middle School on a Saturday morning.

On February 19, 2014, the SCDE sent notice to Mr. Peeler of the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. On February 24, 2014, Mr. Peeler received the notice as evidenced by a signed receipt bearing his signature. On March 7, 2014, Mr. Peeler's attorney, contacted SCDE to discuss an alternative resolution in lieu of a hearing. After discussion, Mr. Peeler acknowledged that he has engaged in unprofessional conduct and agreed to the suspension of his teaching certificate for a period of two years, commencing June 11, 2014, and ending June 10, 2016. Mr. Peeler has waived his right to a hearing and understands that the terms set forth herein are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review and that the suspension of his educator certificate will be reported to all school districts in South Carolina and the NASDTEC Clearinghouse.

Accepted:

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CBP

Date:  
5/30/14

Charles Blake  
Peeler  
248370

#### 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 (2011). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct and any conduct which evidences unfitness for teaching. S. C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2011). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrated that Mr. Peeler engaged in unprofessional conduct and demonstrated an evident unfitness for teaching when he engaged in a romantic encounter with the parent of a student on school grounds. The State Board further finds that the evidence presented supports its determination that just cause exists to suspend Mr. Peeler's educator certificate 248370 for a period of two years, beginning June 11, 2014, and ending on June 10, 2016. If Mr. Peeler desires to have his educator certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension term, he shall make a written request to the SCDE

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Office of Educator Services. Mr. Peeler shall be responsible for meeting all current certification requirements and will be responsible for paying a reinstatement fee.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the State Board approves the Consent Order of Suspension and hereby suspends the educator certificate of Charles Blake Peeler, certificate 248370, for a period of two years, commencing on June 11, 2014, and ending on June 10, 2016. The suspension of Mr. Peeler's educator certificate 248970 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

**AND IT IS SO ORDERED.**

South Carolina State Board of Education

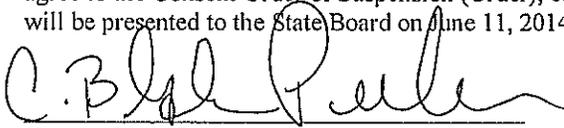
By:  \_\_\_\_\_

Barry F. Bolen, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

June 11, 2014

I, Charles Blake Peeler, S.C. Educator Certificate 248370, understand that 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 that the terms set forth in this Consent Agreement are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. I agree to the Consent Order of Suspension (Order), consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board on June 11, 2014.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles Blake Peeler

5/30/14  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date