

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension)
)
or Revocation of the Educator)
)
Certificate of Stephanie M. Rucker)
)
Certificate 268229)

**CONSENT ORDER OF
SUSPENSION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

This matter comes before the South Carolina State Board of Education (hereinafter "State Board") on February 11, 2015. On September 29, 2014, the South Carolina Department of Education (hereinafter "SCDE") sent a notice letter of the possible suspension or revocation of South Carolina educator certificate 268229 to Stephanie M. Rucker by certified mail, return receipt requested, based on the grounds of unprofessional conduct. Ms. Rucker received the notice letter and requested a hearing, but subsequently agreed to waive the hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Suspension for a period of one year beginning February 11, 2015 and ending February 10, 2016. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension and suspend the license of Ms. Rucker for a period of one year from the date of this Order.

Stephanie M. Rucker 268229
Initial Here SR
Date 2/3/15

FINDINGS OF FACT

Stephanie M. Rucker was employed as a teacher at Poyner School (hereinafter "School") in Florence County School District 1 (hereinafter "District") during the 2013-2014 school year.

Ms. Rucker was employed as special education teacher, and was present in the classroom during an altercation between a student with special needs and another District employee (the student's shadow) in which the employee was attempting to restrain the student. In the course of this altercation, the district employee struck the student with his hand. Ms. Rucker, having observed the employee striking the student, did not respond appropriately, stating "I didn't see anything."

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept this Consent Order of Suspension, effective on February 11, 2015.

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 Ms. Rucker committed unprofessional conduct through her inappropriate reaction to an altercation between a student and a district employee.
- (4) The evidence presented supports the State Board's decision to accept the suspension of the educator certificate of Stephanie M. Rucker, certificate 268229, for a period of one year beginning February 11, 2015 and ending February 10, 2016.

Stephanie M.
Rucker
268229

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SJR

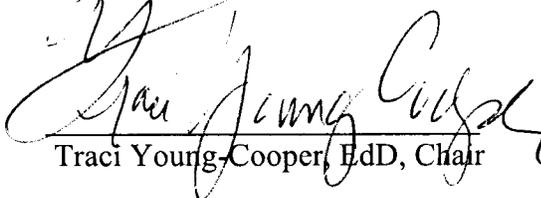
Date

2/13/15

NOW THEREFORE, it is ordered that the State Board accepts the Consent Order and the educator certificate of Stephanie M. Rucker, certificate 268229, is hereby suspended for a period of one year, beginning February 11, 2015 and ending February 10, 2016. This action on certificate 168229 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." Should Ms. Rucker wish to have her educator certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, she must meet all certification requirements and shall submit a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Services. Ms. Rucker shall be responsible for the payment of all applicable fees, including any reinstatement fees.

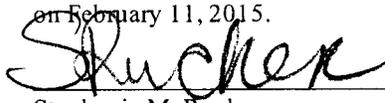
AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

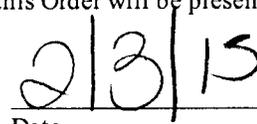
South Carolina State Board of Education

By: 
Traci Young Cooper, EdD, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
February 11, 2015

I, Stephanie M. Rucker, S.C. Educator Certificate 268229, 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 February 11, 2015.


Stephanie M. Rucker


Date

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