

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Suzette M. Inman
Certificate 188640

CONSENT ORDER OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on September 10, 2019. On August 29, 2018, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Suzette M. Inman a notice letter by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail, regarding possible action against her educator certificate. After receiving the notice letter, Ms. Inman's counsel contacted the SCDE and advised that she desired to waive her right to a hearing and wished to pursue an alternative resolution in this matter. Ms. Inman has agreed to this Consent Order of Public Reprimand. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Inman holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over fourteen years of educator experience. She has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. At the time of the incident, Ms. Inman was employed by Lexington School District One (District) as a special education assistant.

On August 16, 2018, the SCDE received notice that Ms. Inman's American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) credentials were revoked. An investigation indicated Ms. Inman's South Carolina speech pathology license had been revoked by the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation in 2015. The revocation was based on a misdemeanor criminal conviction for medical assistance provider fraud in 2013. The conviction dated back to Ms. Inman's actions outside of the school system in 2011 and 2012.

Ms. Inman did not report the conviction to the District, as required by District policy GBEB Employee Conduct. However, despite maintaining a speech language therapist license with the SCDE, it is the SCDE's understanding that Ms. Inman has not worked as a speech language pathologist or therapist since 2012. Since 2013, Ms. Inman has remained as an assistant in a special education classroom.

Ms. Inman has agreed to waive her right to a hearing and to resolve this disciplinary matter by entering into this Consent Order of Public Reprimand, subject to the following terms: (1) a Public Reprimand shall be issued by the State Board, (2) the Public Reprimand shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order, and (3) the Consent Order of Public Reprimand shall be posted on the SCDE's website and shall be maintained as a public record in the SCDE's Office of General Counsel. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand with the terms set forth above.

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 (2017); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2017). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2017); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2017). The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the District would not support a conclusion that just cause exists to suspend or revoke the educator certificate of Suzette M. Inman; however, the evidence that would be presented would support a conclusion that Ms. Inman engaged in unprofessional conduct as result of violating District policy by failing to inform her supervisors of the misdemeanor conviction. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the issuance of a Public Reprimand to Ms. Inman by the State Board.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the State Board hereby issues a Public Reprimand to Suzette M. Inman, certificate 188640. The Public Reprimand shall be reported to the NASDTEC clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order with the grounds listed as "unprofessional

conduct.” This Consent 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

s/Michael Brennan, Chair-Elect

Michael Brennan, Chair Elect

Columbia, South Carolina

August 13, 2019

I, Suzette M. Inman, S.C. Educator Certificate 188640, understand 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 Order of Public Reprimand are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. I have read the Consent Order of Public Reprimand, consisting of three pages, and I freely and voluntarily agree to the terms set forth therein. I understand that this Order will be presented to the South Carolina State Board of Education for approval on Tuesday, September 10, 2019. I understand this Consent Order will not become effective until approved by the State Board and, if not approved, it shall not constitute an admission against interest in this proceeding or prejudice the right of the State Board to adjudicate this matter. If approved by the State Board, I give the SCDE permission to use my electronic signature in the style of “/s/ name” for required website publication.

s/Suzette Inman

Suzette M. Inman

8/1/2019

Date