

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the	)	
	)	
Educator Certificate of	)	CONSENT ORDER OF
	)	SUSPENSION
Caren Lee Burroughs	)	
	)	
<u>Educator Certificate 215521</u>	)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on May 14, 2019. On November 11, 2018, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, to Caren Lee Burroughs, concerning the pending action against her educator certificate 215521. After Ms. Burroughs received the notice, she contacted the SCDE to discuss an alternate resolution to this matter in lieu of a hearing. By signing this agreement, Ms. Burroughs has informed the SCDE that she agreed to waive her right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Suspension (Consent Order) of her educator certificate 215521 for a period of one year.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Ms. Burroughs' educator certificate for a period of one year commencing on May 14, 2019, and ending on May 12, 2020.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Caren Lee Burroughs holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate. Ms. Burroughs has over twenty-seven years of educator experience. She has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board.

Ms. Burroughs was employed by York County School District Two (District) as a social studies teacher for the District. On August 14, 2018, during a teacher development day, Ms. Burroughs was taken to an urgent care facility after coworkers became concerned about her slurred speech and inability to control her equilibrium. Allegations arose that Ms. Burroughs was intoxicated while at work. She was placed on administrative leave and resigned from the District, effective September 7, 2018.

Caren Lee
Burroughs
215521

CB
Initial

4/23/19
Date

Ms. Burroughs has agreed to waive her right to a hearing and to resolve this disciplinary matter by entering into this Consent Order as an alternate resolution. Ms. Burroughs agrees that her educator's certificate will be suspended for a period of one year.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Ms. Burroughs' educator certificate for a period of one year commencing on May 14, 2019, and ending on May 12, 2020.

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 (2016); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2016). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Ms. Burroughs engaged in unprofessional conduct by arriving to work inebriated. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Ms. Burroughs' educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on May 14, 2019, and ending on May 12, 2020.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Caren Lee Burroughs, certificate 225521, is suspended for a period of one year commencing on May 14, 2019, and ending on May 12, 2020.

If Ms. Burroughs wishes to have her certificate reinstated at the conclusion of the period of suspension, she shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Services. Ms. Burroughs shall be responsible for meeting all certification requirements in effect at the time she requests reinstatement and for the payment of any applicable reinstatement fees. The suspension of Ms. Burroughs' educator certificate 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.

(Signature page attached.)

Caren Lee
Burroughs
215521
CB
Initial
4/23/19
Date

Caren Lee Burroughs, Certificate 215521
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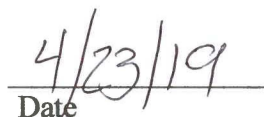
South Carolina State Board of Education

By: 
Del-Gratia Jones, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
May 14, 2019

I, Caren Lee Burroughs, SC Educator Certificate 215521, 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 the terms set forth in this Consent Order of Suspension are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. I agree to the terms of this Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board for approval on May 14, 2019. I understand this 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.


Caren Lee Burroughs


Date