

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Laura Lyn-Ann Izard
Certificate 247012

CONSENT ORDER OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on October 8, 2019¹. On April 30, 2019, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Laura Lyn-Ann Izard a notice letter by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail, regarding possible action against his educator certificate. After receiving the notice letter, Ms. Izard's legal representative contacted the SCDE and advised that Ms. Izard desired to waive her right to a hearing and wished to pursue an alternative resolution in this matter. Ms. Izard has agreed to this Consent Order of Public Reprimand. Ms. Izard further agrees to successfully complete an SCDE-approved anger management course within 6 months of the date of this order. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Izard holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over nine years of educator experience. She has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. At the time of the incident, Ms. Izard was employed by Lexington School District One (District) as a teacher at White Knoll Elementary School (School).

On March 15, 2019, the District reported Ms. Izard to the SCDE for allegations that she: (1) became angry at an elementary school student and knocked his books and materials off his desk and onto the floor and directed him to pick them up, and (2) forced

¹ Date changed by agreement to reflect October 8, 2019 presentation to the State Board of Education for approval.

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another student to stand in front of the room and smell her shoe. As to the first allegation, in statements to School administrators Ms. Izard admitted, "I lost it and I took my hand and swung everything from his desk to the floor." As to the second allegation, Ms. Izard explained she was just joking with the student. Ms. Izard subsequently resigned her employment with the District, effective March 12, 2019.

Ms. Izard 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. Ms. Izard also agrees to successfully complete an SCDE-approved anger management course within six months. 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 Laura Lyn-Ann Izard; however, the evidence that would be presented would support a conclusion that Ms. Izard engaged in unprofessional conduct as result of acting in an inappropriate manner towards students. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the issuance of a Public Reprimand to Ms. Izard b

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the State Board. Ms. Izard is required to successfully complete an SCDE-approved anger management course within the next six months. Now, therefore, it is ordered that the State Board hereby issues a Public Reprimand to Laura Lyn-Ann Izard, certificate 247012. 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/Del-Gratia Jones
Del-Gratia Jones, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
October 8, 2019

I, Laura Lyn-Ann Izard, S.C. Educator Certificate 247012, 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 agree to successfully complete an SCDE-approved anger management course within the next six months. 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, October 8, 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/Laura Lyn-Ann Izard
Laura Lyn-Ann Izard

08/29/19
Date