

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the

Disciplinary Action of the

Educator Certificate of

Ryacus A. Dean

Certificate 213981

CONSENT ORDER OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 13, 2019. On May 21, 2019, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Ryacus A. Dean 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, Mr. Dean contacted the SCDE and advised that he desired to waive his right to a hearing and wished to pursue an alternative resolution in this matter. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Dean holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over thirteen years of educator experience. He has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. At the time of the incident, Mr. Dean was employed by Richland School District Two (District) as an assistant principal at Bethel-Hanberry Elementary School (School).

On November 1, 2018, the District reported Mr. Dean to the SCDE for allegations he engaged in inappropriate communications with and acted in an inappropriate manner towards a female teacher on his staff. The female staff member reported a number of incidents where Mr. Dean made inappropriate or suggestive comments towards her.

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After the female teacher in question reported the matter to the District, Mr. Dean resigned effective October 31, 2019.

Mr. Dean has agreed to waive his 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 Ryacus A. Dean; however, the evidence that would be presented would support a conclusion that Mr. Dean engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of acting inappropriately towards a female subordinate. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the issuance of a Public Reprimand to Mr. Dean by the State Board.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the State Board hereby issues a Public Reprimand to Ryacus A. Dean, certificate 213981. 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

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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

August 13, 2019

I, Ryacus A. Dean, S.C. Educator Certificate 213981, 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, August 13, 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/Ryacus A. Dean

Ryacus A. Dean

7/16/19

Date