

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Angela Johnson Whittington
Certificate 130871

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 November 1, 2018, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Angela Johnson Whittington 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. Whittington contacted the SCDE and advised that she desired to exercise her right to a hearing to resolve this matter. A hearing on the matter was held on May 29, 2019, at the SCDE. On July 8, 2019, the SCDE and Ms. Whittington received the hearing officer's report and recommendation. The hearing officer recommended that Ms. Whittington's educator certificate be suspended for one calendar year. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to issue a public reprimand to Ms. Whittington and approved this Order of Public Reprimand.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Whittington holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over thirty-three years of educator experience. She has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. At the time of the incident, Ms. Whittington was employed by Dillion School District Four (District) as a physical education teacher at Dillion Middle School (School).

On April 19, 2018, the District reported Ms. Whittington to the SCDE after Ms. Whittington resigned from her teaching position following allegations of unprofessional conduct. Specifically, Ms. Whittington violated District policy and was insubordinate by missing school for eleven days after her leave request had been denied. Ms. Whittington

had received previous verbal and written reprimands for the past two years regarding her inappropriate use of leave time. Ms. Whittington was recommended for termination on October 16, 2017, and subsequently resigned from the District. At the conclusion of the hearing, the hearing officer found Ms. Whittington exhibited dishonesty, insubordination, breach of contract, and disrespect for District policies.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to publically reprimand Ms. Whittington and approve this Order of Public Reprimand.

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 Angela Johnson Whittington; however, the evidence that would be presented would support a conclusion that Ms. Whittington engaged in unprofessional conduct as result of dishonesty, breach of contract, violating district policy, and insubordination. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the issuance of a Public Reprimand to Ms. Whittington by the State Board.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the State Board hereby issues a Public Reprimand to Angela Johnson Whittington, certificate 130871. 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.

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AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

s/Del-Gratia Jones
Del-Gratia Jones, Chair

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