

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the)
)
Disciplinary Action of the)
)
Educator Certificate of)
)
Stephanie Elizabeth Fries)
)
Certificate 195650)

**CONSENT ORDER OF
PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

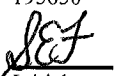
The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on March 12, 2019. On June 28, 2018, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Stephanie Elizabeth Fries a notice letter by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail, regarding possible action against her educator certificate. After receiving the notice letter, Ms. Fries contacted the SCDE and advised that she desired to waive her right to a hearing and pursue an alternative resolution in this matter. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept this Consent Order of Public Reprimand.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Fries holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over seventeen years of experience. She has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Ms. Fries is currently a teacher with the Beaufort County School District (District).

On May 25, 2018, the District reported Ms. Fries to the SCDE for allegations she possessed and consumed alcohol on school grounds. Since the incident, Ms. Fries has communicated her remorse on the matter. She has given the SCDE documentation to demonstrate she is receiving appropriate assistance. The SCDE has not received further concerns from the District.

Ms. Fries has agreed to waive her right to a hearing and 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

Stephanie
Elizabeth
Fries
195650

Initial

2-27-19
Date

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 OGC. 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 Stephanie Elizabeth Fries; however, the evidence that would be presented would support a conclusion that Ms. Fries engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of the possession and consumption of alcohol on school grounds. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the issuance of a Public Reprimand to Ms. Fries by the State Board.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the State Board hereby issues a Public Reprimand to Stephanie Elizabeth Fries, certificate 195650. 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.

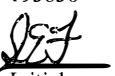
AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education


Del-Gratia Jones, Chair

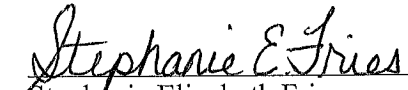
Columbia, South Carolina
March 12, 2019

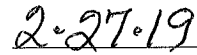
(Signature page attached.)

Stephanie Elizabeth Fries 195650
 Initial
<u>2.27.19</u> Date

Stephanie Elizabeth Fries, Certificate 195650
Consent Order of Public Reprimand
March 12, 2019
Page 3

I, Stephanie Elizabeth Fries, S.C. Educator Certificate 195650, 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, March 12, 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.


Stephanie Elizabeth Fries


Date