

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the	)	
	)	
Educator Certificate of	)	CONSENT ORDER OF
	)	SUSPENSION
Terry Heyward Platt, Jr.	)	
	)	
<u>Educator Certificate 278406</u>	)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on June 11, 2019. On November 1, 2017, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, to Terry Heyward Platt, Jr., concerning the pending action against his educator certificate 278406. After Mr. Platt received the notice, his legal counsel contacted the SCDE to request a hearing. Prior to the scheduling of a hearing in this matter, Mr. Platt's representative informed the SCDE that Mr. Platt agreed to waive his right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Suspension of his educator certificate 278406 for a period of one year. Mr. Platt has also agreed to successfully complete the NASDTEC "Prevention and Corrections" course in professional boundaries and ethics. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Mr. Platt's educator certificate for a period of one year commencing on August 14, 2018, and ending on August 13, 2019.

Terry
Heyward
Platt, Jr.
278406

THP
Initial

May 30,
2019
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FINDINGS OF FACT

Terry Heyward Platt, Jr. holds an initial South Carolina educator certificate. Mr. Platt has over three years of educator experience. He has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Mr. Platt was employed by the Charleston County School District (District) as a Spanish teacher at Garrett Academy of Technology (School). The District hired Mr. Platt by Letter of Agreement (LOA) on January 19, 2017.

Shortly thereafter, the District started to receive a number of complaints regarding Mr. Platt's confrontational manner with students. Several students and parents described Mr. Platt's classroom environment as "toxic, disrespectful, and chaotic." The District became concerned with Mr. Platt's classroom instruction, grading practices, classroom management and environment, parent communication, and interactions with students.

The District concluded that Mr. Platt violated Policy GBEB Employee Conduct which states that employees are expected to set an example for students to “serve them well in their own conduct and behavior and subsequently contribute to an appropriate learning atmosphere” as well as Policy GBEBB Employee Conduct with Students which states that employees will foster positive cooperative associations with students. As a result of Mr. Platt’s violation of these policies, the District terminated his employment, effective April 6, 2017. The District reported Mr. Platt’s unprofessional conduct to the SCDE on June 28, 2017.

Mr. Platt has agreed to waive his right to a hearing and to resolve this disciplinary matter by entering into an alternate resolution to the action against his educator certificate. Mr. Platt agreed that his educator’s certificate will be suspended for a period of one year. Mr. Platt has also agreed that he shall successfully complete the NASDTEC “Prevention and Corrections” course in professional boundaries and ethics. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension 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 demonstrates that Mr. Platt engaged in unprofessional conduct by his violation of District policies GBEB Employee Conduct and GBEBB Employee Conduct with Students. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Mr. Platt’s educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on August 14, 2018, and ending on August 13, 2019.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Terry Heyward Platt, Jr., certificate 278406, is suspended for a period of one year commencing on August 14, 2018, and ending on August 13, 2019.

If Mr. Platt wishes to have his certificate reinstated at the conclusion of the period of suspension, he shall make a written request to the SCDE’s Office of Educator Services

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and provide documentation that he has successfully completed the NASDTEC “Prevention and Corrections” course in professional boundaries and ethics. Mr. Platt shall be responsible for meeting all certification requirements in effect at the time he requests reinstatement and for the payment of any applicable reinstatement fees. The suspension of Mr. Platt’s 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.

South Carolina State Board of Education

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

Columbia, South Carolina
June 11, 2019

I, Terry Heyward Platt, Jr., SC Educator Certificate 278406, 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 SCDE approved anger management training before requesting reinstatement of my certificate. I understand the terms set forth in this Consent Order of Suspension are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. I agree that I will not serve as a volunteer or be employed as an educator, paraprofessional, aide, substitute teacher, band teacher, coach, or in any other position in a public school in the State of South Carolina during this suspension. 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 June 11, 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.

Terry Heyward Platt, Jr.
Terry Heyward Platt, Jr.

May 30, 2019
Date