

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of Action Against)
)
the Educator Certificate)
)
of Mary B. Cannon)
)
Certificate 142454)

**CONSENT ORDER OF
PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

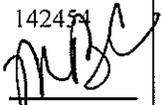
The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 12, 2015. On June 26, 2015, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice to Mary B. Cannon regarding the possible disciplinary action of her educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. After receiving the notice, Ms. Cannon informed the SCDE that she agreed to waive her right to a hearing and accept a public reprimand. After considering the information presented by the SCDE, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Cannon holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has twenty-five years of teaching experience. She has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board or the Georgetown County School District (District). Ms. Cannon has been employed by the District as an 8th Grade English Language arts teacher at Waccamaw Middle School (School) since 1991. On May 13, 2015, Ms. Cannon made physical contact with an eighth grade student when addressing his conduct in the classroom and his failure to follow directions. On May 14, 2015, the District placed Ms. Cannon on administrative leave while investigating this matter. Ms. Cannon admits to her poor judgment in violating District policy by placing her hand on the student.

On June 26, 2015, the SCDE sent notice to Ms. Cannon regarding the possible disciplinary action of her educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. After receiving the notice, Ms. Cannon informed the SCDE that she agreed to waive her right to a hearing and accept a public reprimand. After considering the information presented by the SCDE, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand.

Ms. Cannon waives her right to a hearing and understands that the terms set forth are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. Ms. Cannon consents to the 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 all school districts in South Carolina with the grounds listed as “unprofessional conduct,” and (3) the Consent Order of Public Reprimand

Accepted: Mary B. Cannon 142454  Initial Here 7-9-15 Date
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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 (Rev. 2004); The State Board may, for just cause, issue a public reprimand. 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2011). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-2-160 (Rev. 2004). The State Board finds that the evidence presented, which is undisputed by Ms. Cannon, demonstrates that Ms. Cannon engaged in unprofessional conduct, as a result of her poor judgment while disciplining a student and that just cause exists to publicly reprimand Ms. Cannon. The evidence presented supports the State Board's decision to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the Consent Order of Public Reprimand is accepted and issued to Mary B. Cannon, certificate 142454. The public reprimand of Mary B. Cannon, certificate 142454, shall be reported to 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

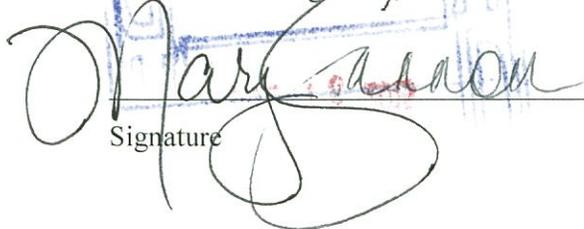


Dr. Traci Young Cooper, Chair

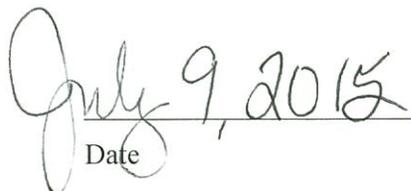
Columbia, South Carolina

August 12, 2015

I, Mary B. Cannon, S.C. Educator Certificate 142454, have read the Consent Order of Public Reprimand, consisting of two pages, and I freely and voluntarily agree to the terms set forth therein. I agree to the proposed Consent Order of Public Reprimand, consisting of two pages, and understand that this Order will be presented as signed to the South Carolina State Board of Education on August 12, 2015.



Signature



Date