

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Discipline)
)
of the Educator)
)
Certificate of Patrice Florence Mucerino)
)
Certificate 267058)

**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) contacted Patrice Florence Mucerino regarding a possible action against of her educator certificate, by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. After receiving notice Ms. Mucerino’s counsel 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. Mucerino holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has six years of teaching experience. She has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Ms. Mucerino was employed by Richland County School District Two (District) from August 20, 2013 until her resignation on March 10, 2015, effective March 11, 2015, as a resource teacher at E.L. Wright Middle School (School). On February 19, 2015, the school received allegations that Ms. Mucerino had responded excessively in her verbal reprimand of a student. On February 19, 2015, Ms. Mucerino was placed on administrative leave until the effective date of her resignation.

On June 26, 2015, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) contacted Patrice Florence Mucerino regarding of the possible action against of her educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. After receiving notice Ms. Mucerino’s counsel 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. Mucerino acknowledges that she has engaged in unprofessional conduct by failing to use appropriate judgement while interacting with students. She waives her right to a hearing and understands that the terms set forth are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. Ms. Mucerino 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

Patrice
Florence
Mucerino
267058


Initial Here

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(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 (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. Mucerino, demonstrates that Ms. Mucerino engaged in unprofessional conduct, as a result of poor judgment while interacting with students and that just cause exists to publicly reprimand Ms. Mucerino. 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 Patrice Florence Mucerino, certificate 267058. The public reprimand of Ms. Mucerino, certificate 267058 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

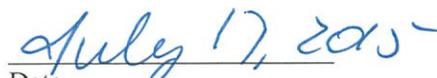

Dr. Traçi Young Cooper, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

August 12, 2015

I, Patrice Florence Mucerino, S.C. Educator Certificate 267058, 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