

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension)
)
or Revocation of the)
)
Educator Certificate of)
)
Richard S. Singleton)
)
Certificate 195772)
_____)

**CONSENT ORDER OF
PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on December 9, 2015. On October 29, 2015, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Richard S. Singleton a notice of his right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible disciplinary action of his South Carolina educator certificate 195772 by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. Richard S. Singleton received the notice on November 6, 2015. On November 18, 2015, Mr. Singleton advised the SCDE that he agreed to waive his right to a hearing and to resolve this disciplinary matter by entering into a Consent Order of Public Reprimand, subject to the terms stated herein. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Richard S. Singleton holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over thirteen years of teaching experience. Mr. Singleton has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Mr. Singleton had been employed by the Greenville County School District (District) as a teacher and coach at the Greenville High School Academy of Law, Finance, and Business from 2012 (School) until his resignation from the District, effective September 30, 2015.. On April 14, 2015, Mr. Singleton was arrested on the charges of assault and battery, third degree, and burglary. These charges were not related to students or his employment. Mr. Singleton immediately informed the District of the pending charges. On August 18, 2015, Mr. Singleton pled guilty to one count of the misdemeanor charge of assault and battery, third

Accepted <i>RS</i>
Initial <i>RS</i>
Date <i>12/4</i>
Richard S. Singleton 195772

degree, and paid a \$200 fine. He subsequently resigned from the District. Mr. Strickland regrets his conduct in this matter and desires to return to the teaching profession.

On October 29, 2015, the SCDE sent Mr. Singleton a notice of his right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible disciplinary action of his South Carolina educator certificate 195772 by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. Mr. Singleton received the notice on November 6, 2015. On November 18, 2015, Mr. Singleton contacted the SCDE to discuss an alternative resolution to this matter. Mr. Singleton has agreed to waive his right to a hearing and to 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 all school districts in South Carolina with the grounds listed as “unprofessional conduct,” 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 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 (2004); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2011). The State Board finds that the evidence presented supports its conclusion that just cause does not exist to suspend or revoke the educator certificate of Richard S. Singleton; however the evidence presented, which is undisputed by Mr. Singleton, demonstrates that Mr. Singleton engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of his guilty plea to the misdemeanor charge of assault and battery, third degree. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the issuance of a Public Reprimand to Mr. Singleton by the State Board.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the State Board hereby issues a Public Reprimand to Richard S. Singleton, certificate 195772. The Public Reprimand shall be reported to all school districts in South Carolina with the grounds listed as

Accepted

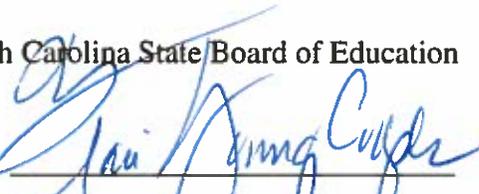
Initial
12/4
Date
Glenn A. Strickland 195772

“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

By:

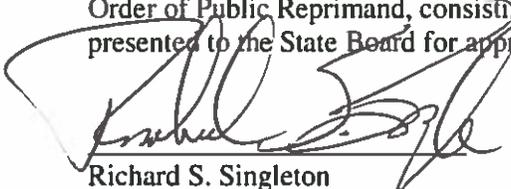


Traci Young Cooper, Ed.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

December 9, 2015

I, Richard S. Singleton, SC Educator Certificate 195772, do hereby agree to the proposed Consent Order of Public Reprimand, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board for approval on Wednesday, December 9, 2015.



Richard S. Singleton

12/4/15
Date