

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of Action Against)
)
the Educator Certificate)
)
Certificate of Cynthia M. Buist,)
)
Certificate 207278)

**CONSENT ORDER OF
PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 9, 2016. On May 3, 2016, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice to Cynthia M. Buist regarding the possible disciplinary action against her educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. After receiving the notice, Ms. Buist's attorney informed the SCDE that Ms. Buist 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. Buist holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over thirteen years of teaching experience. She has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board or the Charleston County School District (District). Ms. Buist began working with the District in 2002, as a guidance counselor at Northwoods Middle School (School). Ms. Buist is currently employed with the District and is in good standing.

On April 14, 2015, the District informed Ms. Buist that she was being terminated as a result of allegations that she violated SCDE mandates for the Individualized Graduation Plan process (IGPs) that require a certified guidance counselor and a parent be present at all IGP meetings. It was alleged that Ms. Buist failed to properly supervise an intern that conducted an IGP meeting without a certified counselor being and that the intern entered information about the IGP meeting into the School's record keeping software. Ms. Buist appealed the termination. The appeal hearing was held before the District Board of Trustees on May 20, 2015. After considering the evidence presented, the District Board of Trustees reinstated Ms. Buist's employment with the District and ordered that a written letter of reprimand be added to Ms. Buist's permanent employment file. A written letter of reprimand was placed in her personnel file.

On May 3, 2016, the SCDE sent notice to Ms. Buist regarding possible disciplinary action on her educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. After

Accepted: Cynthia M. Buist 207278  Initial Here 7/26/16 Date
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receiving the notice, Ms. Buist 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. Buist waives her right to a hearing and understands that the terms set forth are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

“The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, 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).

The State Board finds that the record outlined above, demonstrates that Ms. Buist engaged in unprofessional conduct, as a result of her decision to allow an intern (not a certified guidance counselor) to conduct IGP meetings by himself, so that just cause exists to publicly reprimand Ms. Buist.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the Consent Order of Public Reprimand is accepted and issued to Cynthia M. Buist, certificate 207278.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

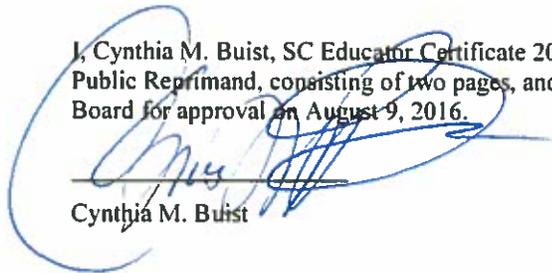
South Carolina State Board of Education



Michael R. Brennan, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
August 9, 2016

I, Cynthia M. Buist, SC Educator Certificate 207278, do hereby agree to the proposed Consent Order of Public Reprimand, consisting of two pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board for approval on August 9, 2016.



Cynthia M. Buist

July 26, 2017

Date