

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Voluntary)
)
Surrender of the Educator)
)
Certificate of Elizabeth A. Nutting)
)
Certificate 207972)

**CONSENT ORDER OF
SUSPENSION**

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 Ms. Nutting informing her that the State Board would meet to make a determination regarding the possible suspension of her educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. On May 9, 2016, after Ms. Nutting received the notice, her attorney informed SCDE that she reserved her right to request a hearing if an alternate resolution could not be reached concerning this matter. Following a meeting with her attorney and the SCDE Office of General Counsel, Ms. Nutting agreed to enter into a Consent Order of Suspension of her educator certificate 207972. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Ms. Nutting's educator certificate for a period of one year commencing on August 9, 2016, and ending on August 8, 2017.

Elizabeth
A. Nutting
207972


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1-13-16
Date

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Nutting holds an educator certificate and has 13 years of teaching experience. Ms. Nutting has no previous disciplinary action with the State Board. She began employment with the Georgetown County School District (District) in July 2014. During the 2015-2016 school year, Ms. Nutting was employed as a special education teacher at Carvers Bay High School (School). Ms. Nutting resigned from the District for medical reasons following an investigation into allegations that she altered a document concerning a student's Individual Education Program (IEP) meeting that she did not hold.

Ms. Nutting was placed on administrative leave on March 4, 2016, while the District investigated the allegations of falsification of IEP documentation. Ms. Nutting

admitted that she did not hold an Annual Review IEP meeting on February 2, 2016, and that she had copied the signatures from a December 2015 meeting onto the alleged February 2, 2016, Annual Review IEP meeting notes that she did not conduct. The District accepted Ms. Nutting's resignation for personal medical reasons, effective March 14, 2016.

On May 3, 2016, the SCDE sent notice to Ms. Nutting of the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. After Ms. Nutting received the notice, her attorney informed SCDE that she reserved her right to request a hearing if an alternate resolution could not be reached concerning this matter. Following a meeting with her attorney and the SCDE Office of General Counsel, Ms. Nutting agreed to waive her right to a hearing and accept a one year period of suspension of her educator certificate. After considering the information presented by the SCDE, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Nutting's educator certificate 207972 for a period of one year, commencing on August 9, 2016, and ending on August 8, 2017.

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 and evident unfitness for position for which one is employed. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE demonstrates that Ms. Nutting engaged in unprofessional conduct and demonstrated evident unfitness for position for which employed as a result of her admitted falsification of a document for an IEP meeting that she did not conduct. The State Board finds that the information presented supports its conclusion that just cause exists to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of the educator certificate of Elizabeth A. Nutting and to suspend Ms. Nutting's educator certificate for a period of one year commencing on August 9, 2016, and ending on August 8, 2017.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Elizabeth A. Nutting, certificate 207972, is suspended for a period of one year commencing on August 9, 2016, and ending on August 8, 2017. If Ms. Nutting wishes to have her certificate

Elizabeth
A. Nutting
207972

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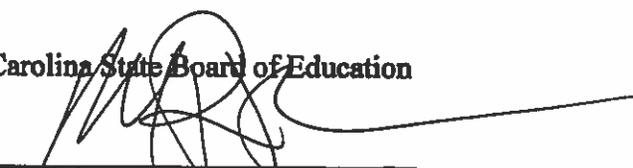
7-13-16
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reinstated at the conclusion of the period of suspension, she shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Services. Ms. Nutting shall be responsible for meeting all certification requirements in effect at the time she requests reinstatement and for the payment of any applicable reinstatement fees. The suspension of Ms. Nutting'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

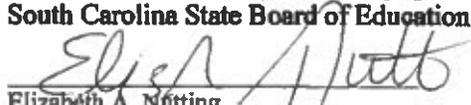
By:



Michael R. Brennan, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
August 9, 2016

I, Elizabeth A. Nutting, S.C. Educator Certificate 207972, 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 that during the period of suspension, I will not serve as a volunteer in any type of educator role or be employed as an educator, paraprofessional, aide, substitute teacher, coach or in any other position in a public school in the State of South Carolina. I understand that the terms set forth in this Consent Agreement are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. I hereby freely, knowingly and voluntarily agree to the suspension of my educator certificate by the South Carolina State Board of Education. I agree to the proposed Consent Order of Voluntary Suspension, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the South Carolina State Board of Education on August 9, 2016.



Elizabeth A. Nutting

7-13-16
Date