

**BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

In the Matter of the Suspension )  
 )  
or Revocation of the )  
 )  
Educator Certificate of )  
 )  
William Kerr )  
 )  
Certificate 902996 )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

**CONSENT ORDER OF  
PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

**SUMMARY OF THE CASE**

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on July 11, 2012. On March 5, 2012, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent William Kerr a notice of his right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate 902996 by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. William Kerr received the notice on March 15, 2012. On March 29, 2012, Mr. Kerr contacted the SCDE and 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**

William Kerr holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over twenty-five years of teaching experience. Mr. Kerr has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Mr. Kerr had been employed with the Charleston County School District (District) since August 18, 1986, and had been employed at Garrett Academy of Technology since the 1994-1995 school year. For the 2011-2012 school year, Mr. Kerr was employed by the District as the Athletic Director and teacher at Garrett Academy of Technology. The District terminated Mr. Kerr on September 8, 2011, for violations associated with his use of the Procurement Card (P-Card) issued by the District.

Accepted  
WK  
Initial  
6/11/12  
Date  
William  
Kerr  
902996

On August 16, 2010, Mr. Kerr submitted a Request for Approval of Field Trip Form for the Boys' Varsity Basketball Team to participate in a basketball tournament in Ponce, Puerto Rico. The District stated that Mr. Kerr intentionally withheld from the form the names of six other travelers, including those of his wife, daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren, his volunteer coach's wife, and their young son.

During the fundraising activities, Mr. Kerr successfully solicited parents, colleagues, and the community for donations to help fund the trip to Puerto Rico without letting the community know that their contributions would be used to pay for the travel expenses of the six other "unauthorized" travelers. Mr. Kerr admitted to the District that he did direct school business to a company owned by his daughter, to purchase snacks using the tax-exempt status in an effort to save money. Mr. Kerr failed to keep proper documentation of the snack items and was not able to provide an accounting of items bought, sold, or profits made, if any.

Mr. Kerr violated the usage guidelines of the District's P-Card Cardholder Agreement by paying for all of the airline tickets, and some of the meals, with the P-Card. The District stated that although Mr. Kerr and his family worked very hard in raising funds for the trips, Mr. Kerr personally gained from the donations that were made. An internal audit report dated June 23, 2011, was conducted and a recommendation was made that the District needed to revise the District's practice for P-Card reimbursement requests. The summary of the audit concluded that one thousand six hundred thirty-eight dollars and eighty-four cents were considered to be inappropriate disbursements by Mr. Kerr; however, Mr. Kerr submitted additional documentation for out of pocket costs paid by his daughter who was a chaperone in excess of the amount of the inappropriate disbursements. The amount of out of pocket costs paid by Mr. Kerr's daughter was one thousand seven hundred ten dollars and seventy-one cents. The audit was unable to substantiate that all the receipts were for items benefiting the District.

On March 5, 2012, the SCDE sent Mr. Kerr a notice of his right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate 902996 by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. Mr. Kerr received the notice on March 15, 2012. On March 29, 2012,

Accepted <u>WK</u>
Initial <u>6/10/12</u>
Date
William Kerr 902996

Mr. Kerr 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 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.

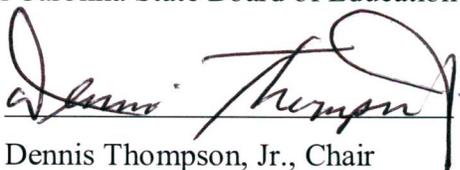
**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

“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 and crimes against the laws of this State. 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 William Kerr; however the evidence presented, which is undisputed by Mr. Kerr, demonstrates that Mr. Kerr engaged in unprofessional conduct. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the issuance of a Public Reprimand to Mr. Kerr by the State Board.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the State Board hereby issues a Public Reprimand to William Kerr, certificate 902996. The Public Reprimand shall be reported to all school districts in South Carolina with the grounds listed as “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:   
Dennis Thompson, Jr., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina  
July 11, 2012

Accepted <i>WIK</i>
Initial <i>WIK</i>
Date <i>6/10/12</i>
William Kerr 902996

Kerr, William, Certificate 902996  
Consent Order of Public Reprimand  
July 11, 2012  
Page 4

I, William Kerr, SC Educator Certificate 902996, do hereby agree to the proposed Consent Order of Public Reprimand, consisting of four pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board for approval on Wednesday, July 11, 2012.



William Kerr



Date