

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension)
)
or Revocation of the Educator)
)
Certificate of Donna Morgan Hughes)
)
Certificate 201581)

**CONSENT ORDER OF
SUSPENSION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

This matter comes before the South Carolina State Board of Education (hereinafter "State Board") on April 8, 2015. On February 27, 2015, the South Carolina Department of Education (hereinafter "SCDE") sent a notice letter of the possible suspension or revocation of South Carolina educator certificate 201581 to Donna Morgan Hughes by certified mail, return receipt requested, based on the grounds of unprofessional conduct. Ms. Hughes received the notice on March 4, 2015, as evidenced by postal verification. On March 12, 2015 counsel for Ms. Hughes contacted the SCDE to reserve Ms. Hughes' right to a hearing and to discuss an alternative resolution to this matter. Ms. Hughes subsequently agreed to waive her right to a hearing and agreed to enter into this Consent Order of Suspension of her educator certificate for a period of one year beginning April 8, 2015, and ending April 7, 2016. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension and suspend the license of Ms. Hughes for a period of one year from the date of this order.

Donna Morgan Hughes 201581
<u>DMH</u> Initial Here
3/26/15 Date

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Hughes was employed as a preschool special education teacher at Woodland Elementary School (hereinafter "School") in Greenville County School District (hereinafter "District") from 2001 until her resignation from the District on April 7, 2014. She has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board.

The District conducted an investigation into allegations that Ms. Hughes had engaged in hostile and neglectful conduct towards the students in her classroom. Ms. Hughes denied the allegations. Ms. Hughes had previously received letters of reprimand from the District in 2012 and 2013 concerning her use of punishment techniques and instructional practices. As a result of the allegations, Ms. Hughes was placed on

administrative leave on March 27, 2014, until her resignation from the District on April 7, 2014.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept this Consent Order of Suspension, effective on April 8, 2015.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

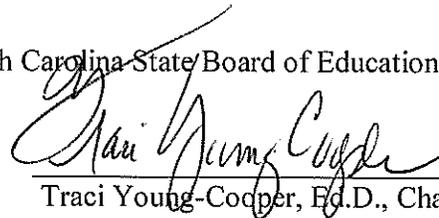
“The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (Rev. 2004); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (Rev. 2004). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (Rev. 2004); 2 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2011). The State Board finds that the evidence presented, demonstrates that Ms. Hughes engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of her harsh treatment of her students. The State Board finds that the information presented supports its conclusion that just cause exists to suspend the educator certificate of Donna Morgan Hughes on the grounds of unprofessional conduct for a period of one year commencing on April 8, 2015, and ending on April 7, 2016.

NOW THEREFORE, it is ordered that the State Board accepts the Consent Order of Suspension and the educator certificate of Donna Morgan Hughes, certificate 201581, is hereby suspended for a period of one year, beginning April 8, 2015 and ending April 7, 2016. This action on educator certificate 201581 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order. Should Ms. Hughes wish to have her educator certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, she must meet all certification requirements and shall submit a written request to the SCDE’s Office of Educator Services. Ms. Hughes shall be responsible for the payment of all applicable fees, including any reinstatement fee.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By:



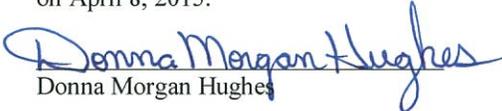
Traci Young-Copper, Ed.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
April 8, 2015

Donna Morgan Hughes 201581
<u>D.M.H.</u> Initial Here
<u>3/26/15</u> Date

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I, Donna Morgan Hughes, S.C. Educator Certificate 201581, hereby waive my right to a hearing in this matter. I have read and understood the terms set forth in this Consent Order. I agree that the findings of facts and conclusions of law contained in this Consent Order are true. I understand that the terms of this Consent Order, upon execution, are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. I hereby freely, knowingly and of my own accord, agree to the suspension of my educator certificate by the South Carolina State Board of Education. I understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board on April 8, 2015.


Donna Morgan Hughes


Date