

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension)
)
or Revocation of the Educator)
)
Certificate of Amy Elizabeth Jacobs)
)
Certificate 246786)

**CONSENT ORDER OF
SUSPENSION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 13, 2014. On June 26, 2014, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice to Amy Elizabeth Jacobs of the possible suspension of her educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. After receiving the notice, Ms. Jacobs contacted the SCDE and informed the SCDE that she had 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. Jacobs' certificate for one year, commencing on August 13, 2014, and ending on August 12, 2015.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Jacobs holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over three years of teaching experience. She has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board.

Ms. Jacobs had been employed by Pickens County School District (District) since 2013, as a School Psychologist until she resigned on March 15, 2014, following an investigation into allegation that Ms. Jacobs was intoxicated while at school. When confronted with the allegations, Ms. Jacobs agreed to have an alcohol screening test administered and the test results were positive. After receiving the alcohol test results, Ms. Jacobs resigned from her position with the District, effective March 15, 2014.

Ms. Jacobs acknowledges that she has engaged in unprofessional conduct. She waives her right to a hearing and understands that the terms set forth are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. Ms. Jacobs consents to the

Accepted: Amy Elizabeth Jacobs 246786 <u>AS</u> Initial Here <u>7/22/14</u> Date
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suspension of her educator certificate for a period of one year and agrees that she will not be employed or volunteer, in any capacity, in any school district in South Carolina. Ms. Jacobs also agrees to participate in counseling and to comply with the conditions of this Order. During the period of suspension, Ms. Jacobs agrees to submit to monthly drug urine screens and have the testing company send the results directly to SCDE.

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); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2011). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-2-160 (Rev. 2004). The State Board finds that the evidence presented, which is undisputed by Ms. Jacobs, demonstrates that Ms. Jacobs engaged in unprofessional conduct, as a result of testing positive on an alcohol screening test and that just cause exists to suspend Ms. Jacobs’ educator certificate. The evidence presented supports the State Board’s decision to accept the Consent Order of Suspension.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the Consent Order of Suspension is accepted and the educator certificate of Amy Elizabeth Jacobs, certificate 246786, is hereby suspended for a period of one year, commencing on August 13, 2014, and ending on August 12, 2015. The suspension of Ms. Jacobs’ educator certificate 246786 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order. Ms. Jacobs’ shall complete a counseling program and comply with all recommended treatment. She shall also submit to monthly urine screens and have the results sent directly from the testing company to SCDE. If Ms. Jacobs’ fails any urine screens or fails to submit test results, the SCDE may request that the State Board revoke her educator certificate.

If Ms. Jacobs desires to have her educator certificate reinstated at the conclusion of the suspension period, she shall make a written request to the SCDE’s Office of Educator Services and shall provide documentation from her counselor that she has successfully completed her counseling and is safe to return to the practice of teaching. Ms. Jacobs must also meet all certification requirements in effect at the time she requests

Accepted:
Amy
Elizabeth
Jacobs
246786

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reinstatement and shall be responsible for the payment of all applicable reinstatement fees.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

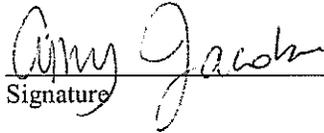
South Carolina State Board of Education



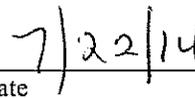
Barry F. Bolen, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
August 13, 2014

I, Amy Elizabeth Jacobs, S.C. Educator Certificate 246786, have read the Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of three pages, and I freely and voluntarily agree to the terms set forth therein. I also agree that I will not serve as a volunteer or be employed as an educator, paraprofessional, aide, substitute teacher, band teacher, coach, or in any other position in a public school in the State of South Carolina during this suspension period. I agree to the proposed Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented as signed to the South Carolina State Board of Education on August 13, 2014.



Signature



Date