

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension)
)
or Revocation of the)
)
Educator Certificate of)
)
Shikira Beth Williams-Sprauve)
)
Certificate 212336)
_____)

**CONSENT ORDER OF
PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on December 8, 2011. On July 7, 2011, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Dr. Shikira Beth Williams-Sprauve a notice of her right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate 212336 by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. Dr. Williams-Sprauve received the notice on or about July 8, 2011. On July 27, 2011, Dr Williams-Sprauve's attorney informed the SCDE that Dr. Williams-Sprauve desired a hearing in this matter.

Prior to the scheduling of hearing, Dr. Williams-Sprauve's attorney advised the SCDE that Dr. Williams-Sprauve had agreed to waive her 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

Dr. Williams-Sprauve holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over eight years of teaching experience. Dr. Williams-Sprauve began her career in education as a teacher in 2002. Dr. Williams-Sprauve had been employed by Hampton County School District Two (District) as the Principal at Estill Middle School for the 2010-2011 school year. The District conducted an investigation into allegations that Dr. Williams-Sprauve directed her teachers not to give any students a grade below a sixty-five for the third nine weeks grading period. The Superintendent

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informed SCDE that it had been communicated to him that Dr. Williams-Sprauve and the teaching staff had made a decision to create "enhancement packets" for all the students worth a maximum of ten points. The Superintendent stated that based on his investigation into the matter, there appeared to be a misapplication related to the grading procedures and that the Superintendent had concluded that it was unacceptable to establish the artificial floor.

On July 7, 2011, the SCDE sent Dr. Williams-Sprauve a notice of her right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina educator certificate 212336 by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. Dr. Williams-Sprauve received the notice on or about July 8, 2011. On July 27, 2011, Dr. Williams-Sprauve's attorney requested a hearing in this matter.

Prior to the hearing, Dr. Williams-Sprauve's attorney advised the SCDE that Dr. Williams-Sprauve had agreed to waive her 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. Pursuant to the request of the SCDE, Dr. Williams-Sprauve completed a communication skills course on October 17, 2011, and has provided successful completion of the course to SCDE. 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. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (Supp. 2010). The State Board finds that the evidence presented supports its conclusion that just cause does not exist to suspend or

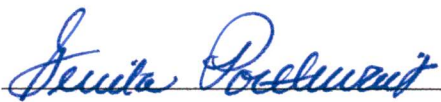
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revoke the educator certificate of Shikira Beth Williams Sprauve; however the evidence presented demonstrates that Dr. Williams-Sprauve engaged in unprofessional conduct by establishing an artificial grading floor of sixty-five resulting in the misapplication related to grading procedures for the third nine week grading period at Estill Middle School and that just cause does exist for the issuance of a Public Reprimand by the State Board.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the State Board hereby issues a Public Reprimand to Shikira Beth Williams-Sprauve, certificate 212336. 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.

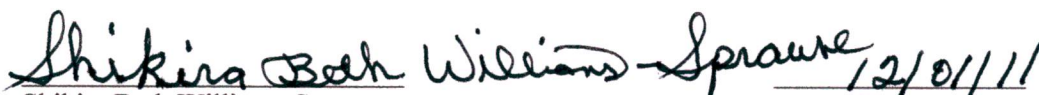
AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: 
Gerrita Postlewait, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
December 8, 2011

I, Shikira Beth Williams-Sprauve, SC Educator Certificate 212336, do hereby agree to the proposed Consent Order of Public Reprimand, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board for approval on Wednesday, December 8, 2011.


Shikira Beth Williams-Sprauve
Date 12/01/11