BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension or Revocation of the Educator Certificate of Michael George Lucas Certificate 186243	**CONSENT ORDER OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on March 14, 2012. On January 26, 2012, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice to Michael George Lucas of the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. On February 13, 2012, Mr. Lucas received the notice as evidenced by a signed postal receipt bearing his signature, and requested a hearing in this matter. Mr. Lucas subsequently contacted the SCDE and informed the SCDE that he wished to pursue an alternative resolution to this matter. Mr. Lucas has agreed to waive his right to a hearing and 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.

Accepted
MGL
Initial
2-20-12
Date

Michael George Lucas 186243

FINDINGS OF FACT

The State Board has jurisdiction of this matter, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004), S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004), and 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (Supp 2011).

Mr. Lucas holds a professional educator certificate and has twenty seven years of teaching experience. His areas of certification include Industrial Technology Education, Secondary Principal and Secondary Supervisor. He has no prior history of disciplinary action with the State Board. Mr. Lucas had been employed by the Berkeley County School District One (District) since 1998. On July 1, 2007, the District assigned Mr. Lucas to the position of Principal at Sedgefield Middle School (School). Mr. Lucas

served as the Principal until his resignation, effective September 1, 2011, following questions that arose during an audit at his school. Mr. Lucas discovered that he had purchased a wireless router for use at his home with the school p-card. Mr. Lucas reimbursed the District for this expense. The other items in question were found located at the school.

On January 26, 2012, the SCDE sent notice to Mr. Lucas of the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. On February 13, 2012, Mr. Lucas received the notice as evidenced by a signed postal receipt bearing his signature, and requested a hearing in this matter. Mr. Lucas subsequently contacted the SCDE and informed the SCDE that he wished to pursue an alternative resolution to this matter. Mr. Lucas has agreed to waive his right to a hearing and resolve this disciplinary matter by entering into a Consent Order of Public Reprimand, subject to the terms stated herein.

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After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004), 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (Supp. 2011). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S. C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (Supp. 2011). The State Board finds that the information presented supports its determination that just cause does not exist to suspend or revoke the educator certificate of Mr. Lucas; however, the evidence presented demonstrates that Mr. Lucas engaged in unprofessional conduct in this matter and that just cause exists 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 Michael George Lucas, certificate 186243. The Public Reprimand shall be reported to all school districts in South Carolina with the grounds listed as "unprofessional conduct." The 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.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: _____
Dennis Thompson, Jr., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

March 14, 2012

I, Michael George Lucas, SC Educator Certificate 186243, 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, March 14, 2012.

_____
Michael George Lucas

2-20-12
Date