

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension)
)
or Revocation of the Educator)
)
Certificate of Brian B. Wilkins)
)
Certificate 212479)

**CONSENT ORDER OF
SUSPENSION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

This matter comes before the South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) on July 9, 2014. On December 18, 2013, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Brian B. Wilkins notice of the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. On January 16, 2014, Mr. Wilkins contacted the SCDE, acknowledging receipt of the notice. Mr. Wilkins agreed to a suspension of his educator certificate for a period of two years, beginning July 9, 2014, and ending on July 8, 2016. After considering the information presented by the SCDE, the State Board voted to accept the suspension of Mr. Wilkins' educator certificate for this period.

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FINDINGS OF FACT

Brian B. Wilkins holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate and has over 11 years of teaching experience in South Carolina.

During the 2013-2104 school year, while employed with the Greenville County School District at J.L. Mann High School as a teacher and football coach, Mr. Wilkins addressed a group of his high school football players prior to the game with a speech. Mr. Wilkins' speech contained excessive use of profanity, including language with demeaning and potentially discriminatory connotations. Additionally, Mr. Wilkins' speech made reference to and incited violent conduct unrelated to any action taken on an

athletic field. Mr. Wilkins subsequently resigned his employment from Greenville County School District.

Mr. Wilkins was subsequently employed by Laurens County School District 55, where he misled the district regarding the events which occurred at Greenville County School District, and regarding the potential action on his certification of which he was notified after he was hired. Shortly thereafter, Laurens County School District 55 was notified of Mr. Wilkins' actions, and terminated his employment.

Mr. Wilkins agrees to the suspension of his South Carolina educator certificate 212479 for a period of two years, beginning July 9, 2014, and ending on July 8, 2016. He has waived his right to a hearing and acknowledges that the terms set forth herein are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review, and that the suspension of his educator certificate will be reported to all school districts in South Carolina and the NASDTEC Clearinghouse as a two year suspension.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004). "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), 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 Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2011). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Mr. Wilkins has engaged in unprofessional conduct by using profane, violent, and inappropriate language while addressing student athletes, and was subsequently dishonest regarding his conduct and the status of his

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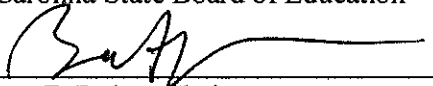
certification, and that just cause exists to suspend his educator certificate for a period of two years, beginning on July 9, 2014, and ending on July 8, 2016.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the educator certificate of Brian B. Wilkins, certificate 212479, is hereby suspended for a period of two years, beginning on July 9, 2014, and ending on July 8, 2016.

If Mr. Wilkins wishes to have his educator certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, he must meet all certification requirements and shall submit a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Services. Mr. Wilkins shall be responsible for the payment of all applicable fees, including any reinstatement fees. The suspension of Mr. Wilkins' educator certificate 212479 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

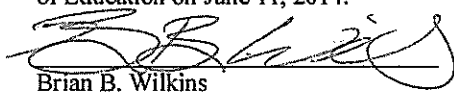
AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

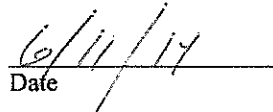
South Carolina State Board of Education

By: 
Barry F. Bolen, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
July 8, 2014

I, Brian B. Wilkins, S.C. Educator Certificate 212479, understand there has been an investigation concerning alleged violations of the laws and regulations governing the practice of education certificate holders and that I have waived my right to a hearing in the matter. I understand that the terms set forth in this Consent Order of Suspension are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review; and I hereby freely, knowingly and voluntarily consent to the suspension of my educator certificate to the South Carolina State Board of Education. I agree to the terms of the proposed Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of three pages, and understand that the Order will be presented to the South Carolina State Board of Education on June 11, 2014.


Brian B. Wilkins


Date