BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension of the Educator Certificate of Kevin B. Wright Certificate 203134	)	**CONSENT ORDER OF SUSPENSION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 8, 2017. On September 8, 2016, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice to Kevin B. Wright, via regular mail and certified mail, restricted delivery, regarding possible disciplinary action to be taken against his educator certificate, 203134. Mr. Wright informed the SCDE that he desired to waive his right to a hearing and enter into a Consent Order of Suspension of his educator certificate 203134 for a period of one year, effective August 8, 2017, until August 7, 2018. Considering the evidence provided, the State Board has agreed to accept the Consent Order of Suspension for Kevin B. Wright for a period of one year, effective August 8, 2017, until August 7, 2018.

Kevin B. Wright 203134

KW

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7-31-17

Date

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Wright holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate and has fifteen years of educator experience. He has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Mr. Wright had been employed by the Aiken County School District (District) as a mathematics teacher and football coach at the time of the allegations against him. The District placed Mr. Wright on administrative leave on July 31, 2014, pending an investigation into allegations concerning unprofessional conduct that he accessed a student's cellphone and sent a nude photo of the student to himself and other staff. Mr. Wright denied the allegations, however, he voluntarily entered into a settlement agreement with the District and resigned effective July 7, 2015.

According to his statement dated July 28, 2014, Mr. Wright's phone was being repaired at the time of this incident. While the student was out of the classroom, Mr. Wright

handled the student's phone. Unbeknownst to the student, Mr. Wright accessed a nude photo of the student on the student's phone and the photo was forwarded via group message consisting of students and teachers, which included Mr. Wright. Mr. Wright further claims that he immediately contacted the other individuals on the distribution list and instructed them to either delete or not open the attachment. Mr. Wright denies any intent in harming the child and claims he meant to delete the picture but accidentally sent the nude photo in a message. Mr. Wright was arrested on September 8, 2014, and charged with communicating obscene messages to another person. The parties understand the criminal charges are no longer pending.

Mr. Wright informed the SCDE that he has agreed to waive his right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Suspension of his educator certificate 203134 for a period of one year, effective August 8, 2017, until August 7, 2018.

Mr. Wright agrees to the suspension of his South Carolina educator certificate 203134 subject to the following conditions: (1) his educator certificate will be suspended immediately upon the approval by the State Board of the Consent Order of Suspension; (2) he has waived his right to notice and a hearing and understands that the terms set forth are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review; and (3) he understands that the suspension of his educator certificate will be reported to all school districts in South Carolina and the NASDTEC Clearinghouse.

Kevin B. Wright 203134

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CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (Supp. 2016). Just cause includes "unprofessional conduct." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (Supp. 2016); 2 S.C. Code Regs 43-58 (2011). The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE demonstrates that Mr. Wright engaged in unprofessional conduct. The evidence presented supports the State Board's decision to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of educator certificate 203134, issued under the name of Kevin B. Wright, for a period of one year effective August 8, 2017, until August 7, 2018.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the Consent Order of Suspension is accepted and the educator certificate of Kevin B. Wright, certificate 203134, is hereby suspended for a

period of one year, effective August 8, 2017, until August 7, 2018. The suspension of the educator certificate of Kevin B. Wright, certificate 203134 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: _____
Ivan Randolph, Ph.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
August 8, 2017

I, Kevin B. Wright, S.C. Educator Certificate 203134, 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 this 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 accept a suspension of my educator certificate to the South Carolina State Board of Education. I 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. I agree to the proposed Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the South Carolina State Board of Education on August 8, 2017.

Kevin Wright
Kevin B. Wright

7-31-17
Date