

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the	)	
	)	
Educator Certificate of	)	CONSENT ORDER OF
	)	PUBLIC REPRIMAND
Kevin Stephen Jones	)	
	)	
<u>Educator Certificate 253074</u>	)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on December 11, 2018. On August 29, 2018, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, to Kevin Stephen Jones concerning the pending action against his educator certificate 253074. After Mr. Jones received the notice, he contacted the SCDE, to request a hearing. Prior to the scheduling of a hearing in this matter, Mr. Jones, through his attorney, agreed to waive his right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Public Reprimand of his educator certificate 253074 for a period of one year. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand of Mr. Jones' educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Kevin Stephen Jones holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over seven years of educator experience and no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board.

Mr. Jones was employed by Florence County School District One (District) as a teacher and coach at West Florence High School (School). On February 9, 2018, the District placed Mr. Jones on administrative leave following allegations that Mr. Jones made inappropriate comments to District staff members. Mr. Jones admits that he acted inappropriately and has apologized for his actions. Mr. Jones resigned from the District on February 28, 2018, effective March 2, 2018.

Mr. Jones has agreed to waive his right to a hearing and to resolve this disciplinary matter by entering into this 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

Kevin Stephen Jones 253074 <i>KST</i>
Initial
<i>11/8/18</i>
Date

shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order, 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. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand with the terms set forth above.

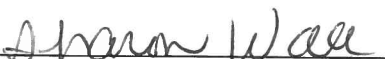
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"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 (2016); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2016). The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the District would not support a conclusion that just cause exists to suspend or revoke the educator certificate of Kevin Stephen Jones; however, the evidence that would be presented would support a conclusion that Mr. Jones engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of inappropriate comments made to District staff members. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the issuance of a Public Reprimand to Mr. Jones by the State Board.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the State Board hereby issues a Public Reprimand to Kevin Stephen Jones, certificate 253074. The Public Reprimand shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order 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


Sharon Wall Ed.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
December 11, 2018

Kevin
Stephen
Jones
253074

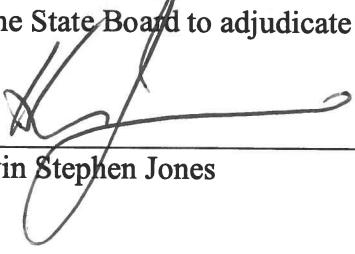


Initial



Date

I, Kevin Stephen Jones, S.C. Educator Certificate 253074, understand there has been an investigation concerning alleged violations of the laws and regulations governing the practice of educator 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 Public Reprimand are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. I have read the Consent Order of Public Reprimand, consisting of three pages, and I freely and voluntarily agree to the terms set forth therein. I understand that this Order will be presented as signed to the South Carolina State Board of Education on understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board for approval on Tuesday, December 11, 2018. I understand this Consent Order will not become effective until approved by the State Board and, if not approved, it shall not constitute an admission against interest in this proceeding or prejudice the right of the State Board to adjudicate this matter.



Kevin Stephen Jones

Date