

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Discipline	)	
	)	
of the Educator Certificate of	)	CONSENT ORDER OF
	)	
Kelsey Lauren Grant	)	PUBLIC REPRIMAND
	)	
<u>Certificate 264868</u>	)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on February 13, 2018. On June 1, 2017, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Kelsey Lauren Grant a notice informing her that the State Board would meet to make a determination regarding possible disciplinary action of her educator certificate, by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. After receiving the notice, Ms. Grant's attorney informed the SCDE that Ms. Grant agreed to waive her right to a hearing and accept a public reprimand and take an SCDE approved course in ethics and professional boundary training. After considering the information presented by the SCDE, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Grant holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over three years of teaching experience. She has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Ms. Grant was employed by Richland County School District Two (District) as a teacher at Westwood High School (School) for the 2015-2016 school year.

During the summer of 2016, the District was made aware of allegations that Ms. Grant may have engaged in an inappropriate relationship with a former student. Ms. Grant denies any inappropriate relationship with the gentleman while he attended the School as a student. However, she admits she entered into a brief, romantic relationship with him after he graduated and after she had resigned from the School to take a position offered to her by another South Carolina school district. After considering the information presented by the SCDE, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand.

Kelsey
Lauren
Grant
264868

Initial Here

Date

Ms. Grant acknowledges that she has engaged in unprofessional conduct by using poor judgement in entering into a romantic relationship with a former student less than a month after his graduation. Ms. Grant waives her right to a hearing and understands that the terms set forth are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. Ms. Grant consents to the public reprimand, subject to the following terms: (1) a Public Reprimand shall be issued by the State Board, (2) she shall enroll in a SCDE approved course in ethics and professional boundary training within six months and provide documentation of successful completion of this course to SCDE, (3) the Public Reprimand shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all school districts in South Carolina, and (4) the Consent Order of Public Reprimand shall be posted on the SCDE's website and will 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.

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 (Rev. 2004); The State Board may, for just cause, issue a public reprimand. 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2011). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-2-160 (Rev. 2004). The State Board finds that the evidence presented supports its conclusion that just cause does not exist to suspend or revoke the educator certificate of Kelsey Lauren Grant and that the issuance of a Public Reprimand to Ms. Grant by the State Board is an appropriate sanction in this matter. The State Board finds that the record outlined above demonstrates that Ms. Grant engaged in unprofessional conduct by using poor judgement in her interactions with a recently graduated male student.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the Consent Order of Public Reprimand is accepted and issued to Kelsey Lauren Grant, certificate 264868. This public reprimand of Ms. Grant's educator certificate shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

Kelsey Lauren Grant 264868
<u>KL</u>
Initial Here
<u>1/24/18</u>
Date

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

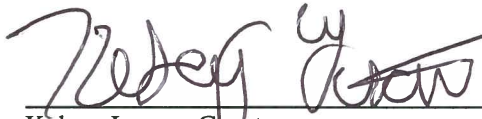
South Carolina State Board of Education

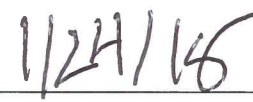

~~Ivan Randolph, Ph.D., Chair~~
Dr. Sharon Wall, Chair

ESW

Columbia, South Carolina
February 13, 2018

I, Kelsey Lauren Grant, S.C. Educator Certificate 264868, 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 February 13, 2018. I understand this 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.


Kelsey Lauren Grant


Date