

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Discipline)
)
of the Educator Certificate of)
)
Derrell A. Lambert, Jr.)
)
)
Certificate 213237)

**CONSENT ORDER OF
PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on June 12, 2018. On February 28, 2018, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Darrell Lambert a notice informing him that the State Board would meet to make a determination regarding possible disciplinary action of his educator certificate, by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. After receiving the notice, Mr. Lambert's attorney informed the SCDE that Mr. Lambert agreed to waive his right to a hearing and resolve this matter by accepting a public reprimand and taking the NASDTEC Prevention and Correction Course as well as SCDE approved anger management counseling. After considering the information presented by the SCDE, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Lambert holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over fifteen years of teaching experience. He has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Mr. Lambert was employed by Lexington County School District One (District) as a teacher and coach at Carolina Springs Middle School (School).

On October 25, 2017, Mr. Lambert, while coaching a football game, used excessive force in reaction to a student who participated with other players in an attempt to pour ice and liquid (icing) on him at the end of the final football game of the season. Mr. Lambert had previously instructed the students not to engage in this activity. It is alleged that one student took a piece of ice and threw it, striking Mr. Lambert in the face area. Following this incident, the school received many complaints regarding Coach Lambert's tone, and the force used to admonish the football player who threw the ice. Mr. Lambert acknowledges that he was very frustrated during the incident, but did not intend

Darrell A. Lambert, Jr. 213237 <u>DAL</u> Initial Here <u>6/1/18</u> Date
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any physical harm to any students and there is no evidence that any students were harmed. Mr. Lambert subsequently resigned from his positions as teacher and coach. After considering the information presented by the SCDE, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand.

Mr. Lambert acknowledges that he has engaged in unprofessional conduct by using poor judgement in reacting to the conduct of his players. Mr. Lambert waives his right to a hearing and understands that the terms set forth are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. Mr. Lambert consents to the public reprimand, subject to the following terms: (1) a Public Reprimand shall be issued by the State Board, (2) he shall enroll in a SCDE approved course in anger management 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 Derrell A. Lambert Jr. and that the issuance of a Public Reprimand to Mr. Lambert by the State Board is an appropriate sanction in this matter. The State Board finds that the record outlined above demonstrates that Ms. Lambert engaged in unprofessional conduct by using poor judgement in his interactions with his students.

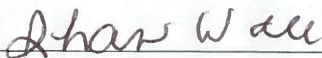
Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the Consent Order of Public Reprimand is accepted and issued to Derrell A. Lambert Jr., certificate 213237. This public reprimand of Mr. Lambert's educator certificate shall be reported to the NASDTEC

Darrell A. Lambert, Jr. 213327  Initial Here <u>6/1/18</u> Date
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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



Sharon Wall, Ed.D. Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
June 12, 2018

I, Derrell A. Lambert Jr., S.C. Educator Certificate 213237, 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 June 12, 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.



Derrell A. Lambert Jr.



Date