

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the)
)
Disciplinary Action of the)
)
Educator Certificate of)
)
Cameron Scott Willis,)
)
Certificate 261160)

**CONSENT ORDER OF
PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

2-8-18 by agreement
The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on ~~February 13, 2018~~ *March 13, 2018*. On November 22, 2016, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Cameron Scott Willis a notice letter by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail, regarding possible action against his educator certificate. After receiving the notice letter, Mr. Willis' attorney contacted the SCDE and advised that Mr. Willis desired to waive his right to a hearing and pursue an alternative resolution in this matter. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Willis holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over three years of teaching experience. He has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Mr. Willis had been employed by the Union County School District (District) as a physical education teacher and coach at Union County High School (School). On October 6, 2015, the District placed Mr. Willis on administrative leave after it was alleged he had engaged in inappropriate communication(s) with female students.

During the District investigation, it was determined that Mr. Willis was exchanging text messages with a female student. Mr. Willis resigned from his position with the District on January 11, 2016. The District reported the incident to law enforcement as well as the SCDE; no criminal charges have been brought.

Cameron
Scott Willis
261160

CW
Initial
2-5-18
Date

ES on
by agreement

Mr. Willis 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 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 Cameron Scott Willis; however, the evidence that would be presented would support a conclusion that Mr. Willis engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of his communication with a female student. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the issuance of a Public Reprimand to Mr. Willis by the State Board.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the State Board hereby issues a Public Reprimand to Cameron Scott Willis, certificate 261160. 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.

(Signature page attached)

Cameron Scott Willis 261160 <u>CW</u> Initial <u>2-5-18</u> Date
--

ESW
Cameron Scott Willis, Certificate 261160
Consent Order of Public Reprimand
~~February 13, 2018~~
Page 3

South Carolina State Board of Education

Dr. Sharon Wall / *[Signature]*
Sharon Wall, Ed.D., Chair

ESW
Columbia, South Carolina
~~February 13, 2018~~

ESW
by agreement
I, Cameron Scott Willis, S.C. Educator Certificate 261160, 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, ~~February 13, 2018~~. *March 13, 2018*

Cameron Scott Willis
Cameron Scott Willis

2-5-18
Date