

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of Suspension)

of the Educator Certificate of)

Alianne Francine Stones,)

Certificate 287913)

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered the matter on November 13, 2018. On August 29, 2018, and October 15, 2018, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent a notice letter to Ms. Stones informing her that the State Board would meet to make a determination regarding the possible disciplinary action of her educator certificate, by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. Ms. Stones confirmed her address on October 15, 2018, as evidenced by the electronic message with SCDE staff. Ms. Stones was also sent an electronic message with the notice letter. Ms. Stones has not requested a hearing in this matter and is in default. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Stones' educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on November 13, 2018, and ending on November 12, 2019. Ms. Stones is also instructed to complete a SCDE approved course in ethics and boundary training prior to the reinstatement of her certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Stones holds a valid South Carolina initial educator certificate and has less than one year of teaching experience. Spartanburg County School District Six (District) employed Ms. Stones as an art teacher at Dorman High School (School). Ms. Stones was hired for the second semester of the 2017-18 school year by a letter of agreement with the District. She was not offered a contract for the following year.

On June 11, 2018, the SCDE was informed that Ms. Stones was being reported for allegations that she allowed students to drink alcoholic beverages and smoke marijuana in her presence. Specific details of the allegations varied. However, in a statement to the SCDE, Ms. Stones admitted she was present when students came to her house and smoked marijuana. She

asserts she wanted to build strong relationships with the students and felt pressure to allow them to smoke marijuana to build trust with the students.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Stones' educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on November 13, 2018, and ending on November 12, 2019. Ms. Stones is also instructed to complete a SCDE approved course in ethics and boundary training prior to the reinstatement of her certificate.

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 (2017); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2017). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2017). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Ms. Stones engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of her failure to stop and failure to report students smoking an illegal drug in her presence. Accordingly, the evidence presented supports the State Board's determination that just cause exists to suspend the educator certificate of Alianne Francine Stones, Educator Certificate 287913, for a period of one year, commencing on November 13, 2018, and ending on November 12, 2019. Ms. Stones is also instructed to complete a SCDE approved course in ethics and boundary training prior to the reinstatement of her certificate.

If Ms. Stones wishes to have her educator certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, she shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Services and shall meet all certification requirements in effect at the time she requests reinstatement. Ms. Stones shall also submit documentation for the completion of a SCDE approved course in ethics and boundary training and be responsible for the payment of the applicable reinstatement fee. The suspension of Ms. Stones' Educator Certificate 287913 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: Sharon Wall
Sharon Wall, Ed.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
November 13, 2018