

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the

Disciplinary Action of the

Educator Certificate of

Katneshia Alona Boyd

Certificate 272851

ORDER OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on December 10, 2019. On August 20, 2018, the State Board summarily suspended the educator certificate of Katneshia Alona Boyd following her arrest on the charges of obstructing justice and pointing and presenting a firearm. Ms. Boyd was subsequently reinstated in an order dated October 16, 2018 following the dismissal of the charges after she entered a pre-trial intervention program. On May 5, 2019, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Ms. Boyd a notice letter by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail, regarding potential action against her educator certificate. After receiving the notice, Ms. Boyd contacted the SCDE to discuss her options in the case. Ms. Boyd expressed interest in signing a Consent Order of Public Reprimand; however, the SCDE never received a signed order from Ms. Boyd.

On October 23, 2019, the SCDE sent Ms. Boyd a final notice letter by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail, informing her that, if the SCDE did not receive any correspondence from her, the matter would proceed as a default. Ms. Boyd received the notice on October 31, 2019, as evidenced by the signed postal receipt. Ms. Boyd has not requested a hearing in this matter and is now in default. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to issue a public reprimand to Ms. Boyd and approved this Order of Public Reprimand.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Boyd holds a valid South Carolina educator certificate and has three years of educator experience. At the time of the infraction, Ms. Boyd was applying to be a teacher with the Georgetown County School District (District).

On June 15, 2018, Ms. Boyd submitted an official application for employment as a teacher for the District. Ms. Boyd admitted in the application that she had previously resigned in lieu of termination from another school district. However, Ms. Boyd claimed the resignation was due in part to family issues. In fact, Ms. Boyd had resigned from employment due to criminal charges that were still pending at the time of application. When specifically asked about criminal charges on the application, Ms. Boyd denied the pending charge.

The District ran a standard background check that revealed the criminal charge. Ms. Boyd was then terminated and the dishonesty on her application was reported to the SCDE. Since the time of this infraction, Ms. Boyd's criminal charge has been dismissed through her participation in a pre-trial intervention program. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to publically reprimand Ms. Boyd and approve this 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 (2017); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2017). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2017); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2017). 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 Katneshia Alona Boyd; however, the evidence that would be presented would support a conclusion that Ms. Boyd engaged in unprofessional conduct by providing false information in her application for employment as a teacher. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the issuance of a Public Reprimand to Ms. Boyd by the State Board.

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Now, therefore, it is ordered that the State Board hereby issues a Public Reprimand to Katneshia Alona Boyd, certificate 272851. 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

s/ Del-Gratia Jones

Del-Gratia Jones, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
December 10, 2019