

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Richard West Hiller
Certificate 189442

CONSENT ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on December 10, 2019. On September 24, 2019, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Richard West Hiller 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. Hiller's counsel contacted the SCDE and advised that he desired to waive his right to a hearing and wished to pursue an alternative resolution in this matter. Mr. Hiller has agreed to this Consent Order of Suspension. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Mr. Hiller's educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on December 10, 2019, and ending on December 8, 2020.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Hiller holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over twenty years of educator experience. He has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. At the time of the incident, Mr. Hiller was employed by School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties (District) as an assistant principal at Chapin High School (School).

On May 21, 2019, Mr. Hiller was placed on administrative leave following allegations that he entered another School employee's member's vehicle in the School parking lot, without permission, and removed something from the vehicle. Specifically, it was alleged Mr. Hiller took items without permission from a teacher's purse and vehicle in the school parking lot during school hours. Surveillance video confirmed Mr. Hiller

Richard West Hiller
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RWH
Initial
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entered the teacher's vehicle during the school day. Mr. Hiller was subsequently arrested and charged with two counts of larceny from a motor vehicle. By entering into this agreement, Mr. Hiller makes no admissions of fact regarding the underlying criminal charges. On August 15, 2019, Mr. Hiller entered into a Settlement Agreement and General Release with the District and resigned his employment with the District, effective October 31, 2019.

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 demonstrates that Mr. Hiller engaged in unprofessional conduct by entering another School employee's vehicle without permission. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Mr. Hiller's educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on December 10, 2019, and ending on December 8, 2020.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the educator certificate of Richard West Hiller, certificate 189442, is suspended for a period of one year, commencing on December 10, 2019, and ending on December 8, 2020.

If Mr. Hiller wishes to have his certificate reinstated at the conclusion of the period of suspension, he shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Services. Mr. Hiller shall be responsible for meeting all certification requirements in effect at the time he requests reinstatement and for the payment of any applicable reinstatement fees. The suspension of Mr. Hiller'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.

Richard West Hiller
189442

RWH

Initial

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Date

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

I, Richard West Hiller, S.C. Educator Certificate 189442, 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 Suspension are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. I have read the Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of three pages, and I freely and voluntarily agree to the terms set forth therein. I understand that this Order will be presented to the South Carolina State Board of Education for approval on Tuesday, December 10, 2019. I understand this Consent 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. If approved by the State Board, I give the SCDE permission to use my electronic signature in the style of “/s/ name” for required website publication.

Dick Hiller
Richard West Hiller

12/2/19
Date