

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the

Disciplinary Action of the

Educator Certificate of

Michael Rollins

Certificate 906017

ORDER OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on November 12, 2019. On September 24, 2019, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Michael Rollins a notice letter by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail, regarding possible action against his educator certificate. Mr. Rollins received the notice on October 4, 2019, as evidenced by USPS tracking. Mr. Rollins 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 Mr. Rollins and approved this Order of Public Reprimand.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Rollins held an induction South Carolina educator certificate and had no prior educator experience. At the time of the incident, Mr. Rollins was employed by Spartanburg School District One (District) as a culinary arts teacher at the Swofford Career Center (Center).

On March 5, 2019, a parent contacted District employees concerning a video Mr. Rollins showed students. During an investigation into the allegations, the District learned Mr. Rollins had called several male students into his office and showed them a video on his cell phone. One student was able to recall the title of the video. Though less specific, other students were able to recall details from the video in their statements. The video contained profanity, featured an obscene joke, and served no educational purpose.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to publically reprimand Mr. Rollins 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 Michael Rollins; however, the evidence that would be presented would support a conclusion that Mr. Rollins engaged in unprofessional conduct as result of showing an inappropriate video to students. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the issuance of a Public Reprimand to Mr. Rollins by the State Board.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the State Board hereby issues a Public Reprimand to Michael Rollins, certificate 906017. 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
November 12, 2019