

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Jeffrey E. Maness
Certificate 186026

**CONSENT ORDER
OF SUSPENSION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on December 8, 2020. On October 28, 2020, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Jeffrey E. Maness a notice letter by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail, regarding possible action against his educator certificate. Mr. Maness subsequently 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. Maness 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. Maness's educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on December 8, 2020, and ending on December 7, 2021.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Maness holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over twenty-three years of educator experience. He has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. At the time of the incident, Mr. Maness was employed by the Greenville County School District (District) as the athletic director at Berea High School (School)

On October 7, 2019, Mr. Maness was placed on administrative leave following allegations that he was involved in a sexual relationship with a staff member that occurred on District property. The inappropriate relationship involved meetings in the football stadium concession stand, his office, and a dressing room. On October 14, 2019, Mr. Maness resigned his employment with the District, effective November 1, 2019.

Jeffrey E. Maness
186026
JEM
Initial
11/11/20
Date

Mr. Maness has agreed to waive his right to a hearing and to resolve this disciplinary matter by entering into an alternate resolution to the action against his educator certificate. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Mr. Maness's educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on December 8, 2020, and ending on December 7, 2021.

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. Maness engaged in unprofessional conduct by engaging in a sexual relationship with a staff member on District property. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Mr. Maness's educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on December 8, 2020, and ending on December 7, 2021.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the educator certificate of Jeffrey E. Maness, certificate 186026, is suspended for a period of one year, commencing on December 8, 2020, and ending on December 7, 2021.

If Mr. Maness 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 and submit proof of completion for the NASDTEC course. Mr. Maness 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. Maness'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.

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AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

s/Michael Brennan
Michael Brennan, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
December 8, 2020

I, Jeffrey E. Maness, S.C. Educator Certificate 186026, 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 8, 2020. 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.

s/Jeffrey E. Maness
Jeffrey E. Maness

11/11/20
Date