

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Reginald M. Partee
Certificate 209323

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 July 28, 2020, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Reginald M. Partee a notice letter by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail, regarding possible action against his educator certificate. Mr. Partee's legal counsel contacted the SCDE and advised that he desired to waive his right to a hearing and pursue an alternative resolution in this matter. Mr. Partee has agreed to enter into this Consent Order of Suspension of his educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on December 8, 2020, and ending on December 7, 2021. Mr. Partee further agrees to successfully complete an SCDE-approved anger management course prior to seeking reinstatement. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept this Consent Order of Suspension

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Partee holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over twenty-two years of educator experience. At the time of the incident, Mr. Partee was employed by the Lancaster County School District (District) as a guidance counselor at South Middle School (School).

Mr. Partee was placed on administrative leave, effective January 28, 2020, following an incident where he made inappropriate physical contact with a student. Specifically, Mr. Partee was involved in an incident where he shoved a student to the ground in an aggressive manner. Mr. Partee initially denied making physical contact with the student; however, surveillance footage confirmed that Mr. Partee pushed the student to the ground. Despite significant underlying medical conditions, the student was not

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injured. Mr. Partee was subsequently arrested for Assault and Battery, 3rd degree. By entering into this agreement, Mr. Partee makes no admissions of fact regarding the underlying criminal charges.

Mr. Partee has agreed to waive his right to a hearing and to resolve this disciplinary matter by entering into this Consent Order of Suspension. Mr. Partee agrees that his educator certificate will be suspended for a period of one year, commencing on December 8, 2020 and ending on December 7, 2021. Further, Mr. Partee agrees to complete an anger management course approved by the SCDE. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension with the terms set forth above.

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 would support a conclusion that Mr. Partee engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of making inappropriate physical contact with a student. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Mr. Partee’s educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on December 8, 2020, and ending December 7, 2021. Mr. Partee is required to successfully complete an SCDE-approved anger management course prior to seeking reinstatement.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the educator certificate of Reginald M. Partee, certificate 209323, is suspended for a period of one year, commencing on December 8, 2020, and ending on December 7, 2021. If Mr. Partee wishes to have his educator certificate reinstated at the conclusion of the period of suspension, he shall make a written request to the SCDE’s Office of Educator Services. Prior to the reinstatement, Mr.

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Partee will submit proof of completing an SCDE-approved anger management course. Mr. Partee 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 Order of Suspension shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this orders with the grounds listed as “unprofessional conduct.” This Consent Order of Suspension shall be posted on the SCDE’s website 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/Michael Brenan

Michael Brenan, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
December 8, 2020

I, Reginald M. Partee, S.C. Educator Certificate 209323, 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 Public Reprimand 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/Reginald M. Partee

Reginald M. Partee

11/13/2020

Date