

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the

Disciplinary Action of the

Educator Certificate of

Jason Pack

Certificate 297876

ORDER OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on June 9, 2020. On January 28, 2020, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Jason Pack a notice letter by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail, regarding potential action against his educator certificate. Mr. Pack received the notice, as evidenced by postal tracking. He 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. Pack and approve this Order of Public Reprimand.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Pack holds a valid South Carolina educator certificate and has no prior educator experience. At the time of the incident, Mr. Pack was a teacher at Furman Middle School (School) in the Sumter County School District (District).

On December 4, 2019, students in Mr. Pack's class began playing with a book bag. Mr. Pack instructed them to stop and asked for them to hand the book bag to him. The book bag's owner was not involved in the incident, and when the student reclaimed his bag, he began to leave the classroom. Mr. Pack again asked for the bag, and the student began talking back to him. When the student attempted to leave the room with the book bag, Mr. Pack followed him, told him to stop, and grabbed the book bag in an attempt to take it. By pulling on the bag, Mr. Pack dragged the student back into the classroom. The student continued to resist and other staff members intervened in order to deescalate the situation. As a result of the incident, law enforcement was notified and Mr. Pack was

placed on administrative leave. Mr. Pack was subsequently terminated by the District, effective February 10, 2020.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to publically reprimand Mr. Pack 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 Jason Pack; however, the evidence that would be presented would support a conclusion that Mr. Pack engaged in unprofessional conduct by inappropriately administering discipline by making physical contact with a student. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the issuance of a Public Reprimand to Mr. Pack by the State Board.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the State Board hereby issues a Public Reprimand to Jason Pack, certificate 297876. 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/Michael Brennan
Michael Brennan, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
June 9, 2020