

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Dylan N. Taylor
Certificate 277232

CONSENT ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 11, 2020. On April 29, 2020, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, to Dylan N. Taylor concerning the pending action against educator certificate 277232. After receiving the notice letter, Mr. Taylor's counsel contacted the SCDE and advised that Mr. Taylor desired to waive his right to a hearing and wished to pursue an alternative resolution in this matter. Mr. Taylor 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. Taylor's educator certificate for eleven months, commencing on August 11, 2020, and ending on July 13, 2021. Mr. Taylor will also complete the NASDTEC Prevention & Correction course prior to the reinstatement of his certification.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Taylor holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over three years of educator experience. At the time of the incident, Mr. Taylor was employed by Lexington School District One (District) as a teacher and cross-country coach at Gilbert High School (School).

Mr. Taylor was placed on administrative leave on January 10, 2020, after a female student reported receiving inappropriate communications from Mr. Taylor that made her feel uncomfortable. On January 21, 2020, Mr. Taylor allowed to return from administrative leave but was also issued a formal written reprimand by the District. After Mr. Taylor's return, the student and three peers from the cross-country team then made

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complaints about other similar past statements. Mr. Taylor cooperated with the District's investigation into his statements. Mr. Taylor subsequently resigned his employment with the District, effective March 2, 2020. Mr. Taylor has maintained that he did not have bad intentions or improper motivations in communicating with the student; however, he also acknowledged how his communications could cause concern in retrospect.

Mr. Taylor 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. Taylor's educator certificate for eleven months, commencing on August 11, 2020, and ending on July 13, 2021. Mr. Taylor will also complete the NASDTEC Prevention & Correction course.

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. Taylor engaged in unprofessional conduct as result of engaging in inappropriate communications with students, which made those students feel uncomfortable. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Mr. Taylor's educator certificate for a period of eleven months, commencing on August 11, 2020, and ending on July 13, 2021. Mr. Taylor will also complete the NASDTEC Prevention & Correction course prior to the reinstatement of his certificate.

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If Mr. Taylor 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. Taylor will submit proof of completing the NASDTEC Prevention & Correction course. Mr. Taylor 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 order with the grounds listed as "unprofessional conduct." This Consent Order of Suspension 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
August 11, 2020

I, Dylan N. Taylor, S.C. Educator Certificate 277232, 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, August 11, 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.

Dylan N. Taylor
Dylan N. Taylor

07/03/2020
Date