

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Charles M. Edmondson
Certificate 208785

CONSENT ORDER OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on October 13, 2020. On June 18, 2020, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, to Charles M. Edmondson concerning the pending action against educator certificate 208785. After receiving the notice letter, Mr. Edmondson contacted the SCDE to discuss an alternative resolution. Mr. Edmondson has agreed to waive his right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Public Reprimand. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand, effective October 13, 2020.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Edmondson holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over twenty-five years of educator experience. He has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. At the time of the incident, Mr. Edmondson was employed by Anderson County School District One (District) as an assistant principal at Wren Middle School (School).

On October 9, 2019, the District sent notice to the SCDE that Mr. Edmondson resigned his employment with the District effective October 4, 2019. Mr. Edmondson was placed on administrative leave on October 2, 2019, following allegations that he was under the influence of alcohol on school grounds during the school day. During the District investigation, Mr. Edmondson acknowledged he consumed a large amount of alcohol the previous evening which may have contributed to him still being under the influence the following day. Mr. Edmondson advised he did not consume any alcohol during the school

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day. At 4:30 p.m. on the afternoon of October 2, 2019, Mr. Edmondson underwent alcohol testing and registered a blood alcohol level of 0.019%.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand, subject to the following terms: (1) a Public Reprimand shall be issued by the State Board, (2) 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, and (3) the Consent Order of Public Reprimand shall be posted on the SCDE's website and shall be maintained as a public record in the SCDE's Office of General Counsel. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand 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 by the District would not support a conclusion that just cause exists to suspend or revoke the educator certificate of Charles M. Edmondson; however, the evidence that would be presented would support a conclusion that Mr. Edmondson engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of reporting to work under the influence of alcohol. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the issuance of a Public Reprimand to Mr. Edmondson.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is ordered that the State Board hereby issues a Public Reprimand to Charles M. Edmondson, certificate 208785. 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

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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 Brenan

Michael Brenan, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
October 13, 2020

I, Charles M. Edmondson, S.C. Educator Certificate 208785, 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 Public Reprimand, 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, October 13, 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/Charles M. Edmondson

Charles M. Edmondson

9/29/2020

Date