

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Stephanie Lynn Carter
Certificate 280674

CONSENT ORDER OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 9, 2022. On May 25, 2022, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Stephanie Lynn Carter a notice letter by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail, regarding possible action against her educator certificate. Ms. Carter contacted the SCDE and advised that she desired to waive her right to a hearing to enter into a consent order of public reprimand. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept this Consent Order of Public Reprimand.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Carter holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over five years of educator experience. She has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Ms. Carter was employed by Lexington County School District Two (District) as a teacher at Northside Middle School (School) at the time of the incident.

On February 23, 2022, the School was following a half-day schedule for students. After students left, the teachers had a lunch hour and were to report back to work for professional development sessions. During the lunch hour, Ms. Carter was part of a small group that attended lunch at a local restaurant. Another staff member witnessed Ms. Carter's group consuming alcohol prior to returning to work and reported the issue. When questioned about the incident, Ms. Carter admitted to drinking two or three small margaritas.

Ms. Carter has agreed to waive her right to a hearing and resolve this disciplinary matter by entering into this Consent Order of Public Reprimand, subject to the following

Stephanie Lynn Carter
280674
s/SLC
Initial
6/30/2022
Date

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 OGC. 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 Ms. Carter; however, the evidence that would be presented would support a conclusion that Ms. Carter engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of consuming an alcoholic beverage during work hours. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the issuance of a Public Reprimand to Ms. Carter by the State Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is ordered that the State Board hereby issues a Public Reprimand to Stephanie Lynn Carter, certificate 280674.

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.

Stephanie Lynn Carter
280674
s/SLC
Initial
6/30/2022
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South Carolina State Board of Education

s/Alan Walters
Alan Walters, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
August 9, 2022

I, Stephanie Lynn Carter, S.C. Educator Certificate 280674, 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, August 9, 2022. 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/ Stephanie Lynn Carter
Stephanie Lynn Carter

6/30/2022
Date