

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Kelley H. Blashka
Certificate 197430

CONSENT ORDER OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on June 13, 2023. On March 1, 2023, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Kelley H. Blashka a notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate 197430. Ms. Blashka received the notice and contacted the SCDE to discuss an alternate resolution. Ms. Blashka has agreed to waive her 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 of Ms. Blashka's educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Blashka holds a valid South Carolina educator certificate. She has over eleven years of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. At the time of the incident, Ms. Blashka was employed by Lexington County School District One (District) as an educator and archery coach at Lexington High School (School).

In her role as the archery coach at the School, Ms. Blashka accepted money from archery students that was intended for an upcoming tournament. This money was kept in an envelope in Ms. Blashka's classroom. In February 2021, Ms. Blashka attempted to give some of the money as compensation to a coworker that was assisting with the archery team. The coworker was worried about where the money came from and reported the incident to School administration. Upon investigation, it was determined that Ms. Blashka did mishandle student funds by failing to follow proper procedures. Ms. Blashka stated

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s/KB
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she did intend to compensate her coworker for assistance in the archery club from her personal account, not the student funds.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand of Ms. Blashka's educator certificate.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The State Board may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2020); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2020). Just cause includes "incompetence; willful neglect of duty; willful violation of the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education; unprofessional conduct; drunkenness; cruelty; crime against the law of this State or the United States; immorality; any conduct involving moral turpitude; dishonesty; evident unfitness for position for which employed; or sale or possession of narcotics." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2020); S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2016). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Ms. Blashka engaged in unprofessional conduct due to mishandling school funds. The State Board further finds that just cause exists to publicly reprimand Ms. Blashka's educator certificate.

The public reprimand of Ms. Blashka's educator certificate 197430 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Kelley H. Blashka, certificate 197430, is publicly reprimanded.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina Board of Education

s/Crystal F. Stapleton, Ed.D.

Crystal F. Stapleton, Ed. D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
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I, Kelley H. Blashka, SC Educator Certificate 197430, 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 the terms set forth in this Consent Order of Public Reprimand are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack, or judicial review. I agree to the terms of this Consent Order of Public Reprimand, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State board for approval on. I understand this 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 have the SCDE permission to use my electronic signature in the style of "s/name" for required website publication.

s/Kelley H. Blashka
Kelley H. Blashka

5/18/23
Date

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197430
s/KB
Initial
5/18/23
Date