

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Jeffrey Charles Moss
Certificate 264337

CONSENT ORDER OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 11, 2020. On February 26, 2020, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, to Jeffrey Charles Moss concerning the pending action against educator certificate 264337. After Dr. Moss received the notice, he contacted the SCDE and advised that he desired to waive his right to a hearing and wished to pursue an alternative resolution in the matter. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Dr. Moss holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over thirty-five years of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Dr. Moss was employed by the Beaufort County School District (District) as its superintendent from July 1, 2013 until July 31, 2018.

On November 21, 2019, Dr. Moss entered into a Consent Order with the South Carolina State Ethics Commission (Commission). The Ethics complaint involved Dr. Moss's employment as a Consulting Faculty Member (CFM) for the Education Research and Development Institute (ERDI) while still employed as the Superintendent of the Beaufort County School District. Dr. Moss admitted to violating the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Finance Act (Ethics Act) by using his public employment to obtain an economic interest in violation of Section 8-13-700(A). In exchange for his admission to violating Section 8-13-700(A), the Commission agreed to dismiss the allegation Dr. Moss violated Section 8-13-715 by improperly accepting

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honorariums from ERDI in conjunction with speaking engagements given in his official capacity. Specifically, the Commission found Dr. Moss requested and was approved to use professional leave to attend meetings, but should have used annual leave during his participation in four ERDI conferences over a span of seven days. At the conclusion of Dr. Moss's employment with the District, Dr. Moss was compensated by the District for unused annual leave at a daily pay rate of \$846.50. Dr. Moss was therefore paid for seven days of annual leave that should have been used when he attended the ERDI conferences, resulting in an improper payment of \$6,659.72 by the District. As part of his Consent Order with the Commission, Dr. Moss was required to pay \$6,659.72 to the District as renumeration for the leave payments improperly received.

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 Jeffrey Charles Moss; however, the evidence that would be presented would support a conclusion that Dr. Moss engaged in unprofessional

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conduct as result of violating the South Carolina Ethics Act while employed as the Superintendent of the Beaufort County School District. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the issuance of a Public Reprimand to Jeffrey Charles Moss

NOW, THEREFORE, it is ordered that the State Board hereby issues a Public Reprimand to Jeffrey Charles Moss, certificate 264337. 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
August 11, 2020

I, Jeffrey Charles Moss, S.C. Educator Certificate 264337, 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, April 14, 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/Jeffrey Charles Moss
Jeffrey Charles Moss

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