

BEFORE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
STATE OF NEBRASKA

Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.)
Commissioner of Education)
P.O. Box 94933)
Lincoln, NE 68509-4933,)
)
Petitioner,)
)
v.)
)
Shauna Parker)
2340 Main Street, #8102)
Elkhorn, NE 68022,)
)
Respondent.)

NDE Case No. 23-16

FINAL ORDER

This matter came before the State Board of Education (“State Board”), Lincoln, Nebraska, on June 27, 2023, upon the recommendation of the Nebraska Professional Practices Commission (“NPPC”) that the public Nebraska teaching certificate of the Respondent, Shauna Parker, be suspended for a period of two years. The parties were notified of the State Board’s consideration in this matter. Appearing before the State Board was Tamra L. Walz, General Counsel, on behalf of the Commissioner of Education. NPPC Clerk Kelly Muthersbaugh appeared and provided a summary of the NPPC’s recommendation in this matter. The Respondent appeared with legal counsel, Jonathan Hunzeker.

The record of the NPPC proceeding, containing the “Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Recommendation of the Commission,” all of the pleadings, exhibits, and a written transcript of the NPPC hearing, was received by the State Board into evidence as “Exhibit 1.” The Notice of Disposition and the certified mail return receipt were received

into evidence as “Exhibit 2.” Upon its independent review of the entire record, the State Board finds, concludes, and orders as follows:

1. The State Board has jurisdiction in this case pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-866(2) (2014);

2. The Petitioner is Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D., Commissioner of Education, P.O. Box 94933, Lincoln, NE 68509-4933;

3. The Respondent is Shauna Parker, 2340 Main Street, #8102, Elkhorn, NE 68022;

4. The Respondent holds a public Nebraska Initial teaching certificate number 20210008216, endorsed in Elementary Education K-6 and Early Childhood Education PK-3, with an expiration date of August 31, 2026;

5. The Respondent was employed as an elementary teacher by the Elkhorn Public Schools (“Elkhorn”) beginning with the 2020-2021 school year until her resignation was accepted by the Elkhorn School Board on September 13, 2021. The Respondent was previously employed by Elkhorn as a substitute teacher for the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years;

6. During the 2020-2021 school year, Respondent also held a volunteer youth leadership position at Relevant Community Church. Sometime in September or October 2020, Respondent had female youth group members (16 or 17 years old) stay overnight at her residence. Respondent provided the minors, some or all of which were Elkhorn students, alcohol in the form of a glass of wine. As a result of these actions, Relevant Community Church removed Respondent from her youth leadership position.

7. In August 2021, Elkhorn administration became aware of Respondent's actions described in ¶ 6 above, and notified Respondent of possible cancellation of her contract on August 16, 2021. Respondent tendered her resignation on September 10, 2021, effective September 15, 2021, which was accepted by the Elkhorn School Board on September 13, 2021.

8. The Respondent has violated Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-866(2) (2014), which states, in pertinent part: "The board may, for just cause, revoke or suspend any teacher's or administrator's certificate. Violation of the standards established pursuant to this section, commission of an immoral act, or conviction of a felony under the laws of this state shall constitute just cause for the revocation or suspension of a teacher's or administrator's certificate by the board."; Title 92, *Nebraska Administrative Code*, Chapter 27, Section 004.02E (effective date: November 12, 2003) ("the educator: Shall not exploit professional relationships with students, colleagues, parents, school patrons, or school board members for personal gain or private advantage"); Section 004.03C (same effective date) ("the educator: Shall make reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions which interfere with the learning process or are harmful to health or safety"); and Section 005.06D (same effective date) ("The educator shall: Develop and maintain positive standards of conduct");

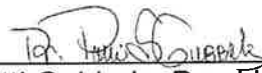
9. By a preponderance of the evidence, just cause exists pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-866(2) (2014) to suspend the Respondent's teaching certificate for a period of two years; and

10. The public Nebraska Initial teaching certificate of Shauna Parker, number 20210008216, endorsed in Elementary Education K-6 and Early Childhood Education

PK-3, with an expiration date of August 31, 2026, shall be suspended for a period of two years effective August 16, 2021.

Dated this 27th day of June, 2023.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

BY: 
Patti Gubbels, President

The vote by the State Board of Education to approve the Final Order in Case No. 23-16, on June 27, 2023, was 6 in favor, 2 against, _____ abstaining, and _____ absent. Individual State Board members voted as follows:

IN FAVOR: P. Gubbels, D. Neary, J. Morrison, L. Fricke, S. Jones, P. Koch Johns

AGAINST: K. Penner, E. Tegtmeier

ABSTAINING: _____

ABSENT: _____

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing Final Order was served upon counsel for Respondent, Jonathan Hunzeker, Norby & Welding LLP, 605 South 14th Street, Suite 220, Lincoln, NE 68508, by regular U.S. Mail; Kelly Muthersbaugh, NPPC Clerk, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lower Level, Lincoln, NE 68509, via interoffice mail; and Tamra L. Walz, General Counsel, Nebraska Department of Education, 500 S. 84th Street, 2nd Floor, Lincoln, NE 68510-2611, via interoffice mail, all on this 24th day of June, 2023.



49-3259-30