

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND) BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
))
IN THE MATTER OF:)
COMPLAINT C2014-135)
))
Lee Co. School Board-Chairman)
Sanya Moses,)
Respondent.)
))
Frank B. Millican, Jr.,)
Complainant.)
_____)

DECISION AND ORDER

Pursuant to S. C. Code Ann. § 8-13-320(10)(i)(Supp. 2013), the State Ethics Commission reviewed the above captioned complaint on June 17, 2014 charging the Respondents, Lee County School Board and Chairman Sanya Moses, with violations of Section 8-13-700, etal. Present at the meeting were Commission Members James H. Burns, Chair, Clisby P. Templeton, James I. Warren, III, Regina H. Lewis, Julie S. Jeffords-Moose, Thomas Miller Galardi and Sherri A. Lydon. The following allegation was considered:

ALLEGATION

On March 14, 2014 the State Ethics Commission received a complaint filed by Frank B. Millican, Jr., Dalzell, SC against Lee County School Board (Chairperson Sanya Moses), Bishopville, SC. The complaint alleged that the Lee County School Board awarded three no-bid contracts to S & A Services, a business operated by Andrew Moses, father of Board Chairperson Sanya Moses. The Board also hired Andrew Moses as a maintenance supervisor while he works on the contracts.

STATE ETHICS
COMMISSION

2014 JUN 20 PM 3:41

RECEIVED

FINDINGS OF FACT

Having carefully reviewed the evidence presented, the Commission finds as fact:

1. The Respondent, Sanya Moses, is Chairman of the Respondent Lee County School Board.
2. Respondent Moses stated that while serving as the Chairperson for the Lee County School Board, she did not make or participate in making a decision to hire her father, Andrew Moses, to work on construction or maintenance projects at the Lee County School District. Respondent said that she did not in any way influence a decision to hire her father at the district. Respondent said that her father was hired by the Lee County School District Superintendent, Dr. Wanda Andrews, in December of 2013. Respondent advised that she was out of the country on vacation in December of 2013, and when she returned from vacation she learned that her father was hired by the superintendent to work on school improvement projects and serve as a consultant for the maintenance department.
3. Staff interviewed the Lee County School District Superintendent, Dr. Wanda Andrews, and she said that she did speak with the Lee County School Board of Trustees in regard to the poor condition of two vacant schools. Dr. Andrews stated that the schools had been vandalized and the grass and shrubs on the properties were overgrown. Dr. Andrews advised the Board of Trustees that due to safety concerns and possible civil liability for the school district, the school properties needed to be cleaned and made safe for the children in the area of the vacant schools.

4. Dr. Andrews stated that she met Mr. Moses when she was first introduced as the new school superintendent in June of 2013. Dr. Andrews said that she also attended church services with Mr. Moses. Dr. Andrews said that Mr. Moses had worked in the construction business, and he owned equipment that he used for landscaping and debris removal. Dr. Andrews stated that she made the decision to hire Mr. Moses to clean up the property at the two vacant schools, install an emergency fence, and to provide consulting services for the supervision of the maintenance department. She said that she did not discuss hiring Mr. Moses with members of the Board of Trustees including Respondent. Dr. Andrews said Mr. Moses provided his services without a contract. Dr. Andrews stated Mr. Moses was not a public employee at the district when he provided maintenance or landscaping services.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Respondent, Sanya Moses, is a public official, as defined by Section 8-13-100(27) and the Respondent, Lee County School Board, is a governmental entity as defined by Section 8-13-100(17).

2. The State Ethics Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.

3. Section 8-13-700 provides in part that a public official may not knowingly use his official office to obtain an economic interest for himself or a family member.

DECISION

THEREFORE, based upon evidence presented, the State Ethics Commission has determined that there is not probable cause to indicate that the Respondent, Sanya Moses, used her official office to obtain an economic interest for a family member. The

Commission has therefore dismissed the charges in accordance with Section 8-13-320(10)(i), and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 20th DAY OF June, 2014.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



JAMES H. BURNS
CHAIRMAN

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA