

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation	)	
	)	
Or Suspension of the	)	ORDER OF
	)	
Educator Certificate of	)	SUSPENSION
	)	
James Green	)	
	)	
Certificate 200980	)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 18, 2011. On March 24, 2011, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice to Mr. James Green of the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. On March 28, 2011, Mr. Green received the notice as evidence by a signed receipt bearing his signature. Mr. Green did not request a hearing within the time specified in the notice and is in default. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Mr. Green's educator certificate for a period of three years, commencing on August 18, 2011, and ending on August 17, 2014.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The State Board has jurisdiction of this matter pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004). Mr. Green holds a professional educator certificate and has over eleven years of teaching experience. He has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Mr. Green had been employed by the Berkeley County School District (District) since 2000. During the 2009-2010 school year, the District employed Mr. Green as an Assistant Principal at Berkeley High School (School). Mr. Green resigned from the District, effective December 16, 2010, following his acknowledgement that he was involved in an inappropriate relationship on school grounds with a female staff member whom he supervised. Mr. Green admitted that he had engaged in a sexual relationship with a female staff member in his office and other secluded areas at Berkeley High School on numerous occasions between January 2009 and June 2010.

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CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004), S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004), 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (Supp 2010). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct and any conduct which evidences unfitness for teaching. S. C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (Supp. 2010). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrated that Mr. Green engaged in unprofessional conduct and demonstrated an evident unfitness for teaching when he engaged in a sexual relationship with a female staff member he supervised on school grounds. The State Board further finds that the evidence presented supports its determination that just cause exists to suspend Mr. Green's educator certificate 200980 for a period of three years, beginning August 18, 2011, and ending on August 17, 2014. If Mr. Green desires to have his educator certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension term, he shall make a written request to the SCDE Office of Educator Certification. Mr. Green shall be responsible for meeting all current certification requirements and will be responsible for paying a reinstatement fee.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the State Board suspends the educator certificate of James Green, certificate 200980, for a period of three years, commencing on August 18, 2011, and ending on August 17, 2014. The suspension of Mr. Green's educator certificate 200980 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order as a three year suspension with the reasons for suspension stated as "unprofessional conduct and evident unfitness for position for which employed."

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: 
Gerrita Postlewait, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
August 18, 2011