

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation)
)
of the Educator Certificate of)
)
Brian M. Wetmore)
)
Certificate 243579)

**ORDER OF
PERMANENT REVOCATION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on March 11, 2011. On October 26, 2010, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice to Mr. Wetmore of the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate 243579, and his right to a hearing by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. Mr. Wetmore received the notice on October 28, 2010, as evidenced by a postal receipt bearing his signature. After receiving the notice, Mr. Wetmore did not request a hearing in this matter and is in default. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to permanently revoke Mr. Wetmore's educator certificate 243579, effective March 11, 2011.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Wetmore holds a valid professional educator certificate and has one year of teaching experience. Mr. Wetmore was employed by the Anderson County School District Four (District) at Pendleton High School as a math teacher, until he resigned, effective February 23, 2010, following an investigation into allegations that he was involved in an inappropriate relationship with an eighteen year old female student. The investigation revealed that Mr. Wetmore had invited the student to have lunch in his classroom and would invite the student to his classroom on other occasions. He made inappropriate comments to the student, rubbed the student on her back, kissed her, and sent her a message on Facebook about the possibility of dating her. He also rubbed his hand up the back of another female student's leg and touched her bottom when she was standing at his desk to get help with math.

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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 (2004). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct and evident unfitness for position for which employed, S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (Supp. 2010). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Mr. Wetmore engaged in unprofessional conduct, and demonstrated evident unfitness for position for which employed as a result of his inappropriate relationship with an eighteen year old female student and his inappropriate conduct with another student, and that just cause exists to permanently revoke Mr. Wetmore's educator certificate. The evidence presented supports the State Board's decision to permanently revoke the educator certificate of Brian M. Wetmore, certificate 243579, effective March 10, 2011. The permanent revocation of Mr. Wetmore's educator certificate 243579 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order with the reasons 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