

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation	)	
	)	
Or Suspension of the	)	ORDER OF
	)	
Educator Certificate of	)	SUSPENSION
	)	
Deborah L. B. Buse	)	
	)	
<u>Certificate 157286</u>	)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on March 14, 2012. On December 21, 2011, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice to Ms. Deborah L. B. Buse of the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. Ms. Buse received the notice letter as evidenced by a postal receipt bearing her signature. Ms. Buse 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 Ms. Buse's educator certificate for a period of two years, commencing on March 14, 2012, and ending on March 13, 2014.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Buse holds a professional educator certificate and has over seventeen years of teaching experience. She has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Ms. Buse was employed by the Charleston County School District (District) as a teacher until she was terminated from the District, effective July 20, 2011, following a District investigation into allegations that Ms. Buse failed to implement appropriate changes to a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP), shredded documents that should have been retained, falsified dates for monitoring student progress, and failed to follow directions.

On March 17, 2011, a parent of a student told the District that the data collected by Ms. Buse was falsified, since the student was not in school on many of the days that Ms. Buse showed in her report, including some Saturdays and other days when the student was not at school, but home sick. The District reviewed the allegations and, on

May 9, 2011, the District concluded that it appeared Ms. Buse had shredded some of the student's records.

The parents of another student also informed the District that the data collected on their child by Ms. Buse was also falsified, since the student was not present in school on many of the days that Ms. Buse showed in her report, including days when the school was not open.

The District concluded that Ms. Buse's employment be terminated for violation of Policy GBE Employee Rights and Responsibilities and Policy GBEB Employee Conduct. The District found that Ms. Buse violated laws and procedures regarding special education meetings and documents as well as policies and expectations for the professional behavior of teachers.

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CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

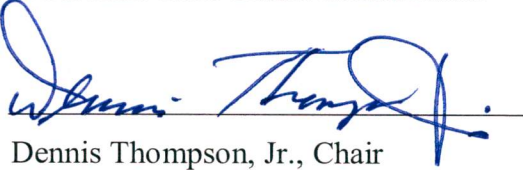
"The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004), S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004), 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (Supp 2011). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct and any conduct which evidences unfitness for teaching, S. C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (Supp. 2011). The State Board finds that the information presented supports its determination that Ms. Buse engaged in unprofessional conduct and demonstrated evident unfitness for position for which employed as a result of her violation of District Policies, the procedural and substantive irregularities in her special education documentation for her students, her shredding documents that should have been retrained, her failure to follow directions, and her falsification of dates for monitoring student progress. The State Board finds that just cause exists to suspend Ms.

Buse's educator certificate 157286 for a period of two years, beginning March 14, 2012, and ending on March 13, 2014.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the State Board suspend the educator certificate of Deborah L. B. Buse, certificate 157286. The suspension of Ms. Buse's educator certificate 157286 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: 

Dennis Thompson, Jr., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

March 14, 2012