

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation)
)
Or Suspension of the)
)
Educator Certificate of)
)
Michael T. Williams)
)
Certificate 208241)

**CONSENT ORDER OF
SUSPENSION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on May 8, 2013. On April 1, 2013, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice to Mr. Michael T. Williams of the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. Mr. Williams received the notice letter and contacted the SCDE requesting an alternate resolution of this matter in lieu of a hearing. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to approve the Consent Order of Suspension of Mr. Williams' educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on May 8, 2013, and ending on May 7, 2014.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Williams holds a professional educator certificate and has eleven years of teaching experience. He has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Mr. Williams was employed by the Dorchester County School District Four (District) as the Principal of Harleyville-Ridgeville Middle School (School). On August 14, 2012, Mr. Williams resigned his position with the District, after the Dorchester County Sheriff's Department completed a Breach of Trust investigation at the request of the District involving Mr. Williams' improper handling of District property. Mr. Williams admitted that he pawned one District computer and improperly removed a second District computer. Mr. Williams returned all property to the District and the case was closed by the Dorchester County Sheriff's Department.

On April 1, 2013, the SCDE sent notice to Mr. Williams of the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. Mr. Williams received the notice letter and contacted the SCDE requesting an alternate resolution in lieu of a hearing. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board

Michael T.
Williams
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voted to approve the Consent Order of Suspension of Mr. Williams' educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on May 8, 2013, and ending on May 7, 2014.

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 (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 (2011). The State Board finds that the information presented supports its determination that Mr. Williams engaged in unprofessional conduct and demonstrated evident unfitness for position for which employed as a result of his improper handling of District property and the findings of the Breach of Trust investigation by the Darlington County Sheriff Department. The State Board finds that just cause exists to suspend Mr. Williams' educator certificate 208241 for a period of one year, beginning May 8, 2013, and ending on May 7, 2014.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the State Board suspend the educator certificate of Michael T. Williams, certificate 208241. The suspension of Mr. Williams' educator certificate 208241 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

If Mr. Williams wishes to have his educator certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, he shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Certification, Recruitment and Preparation. Mr. Williams shall meet all certification requirements in effect at the time he requests reinstatement and shall be responsible for the payment of the applicable reinstatement fee.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: David W. Blackmon
David W. Blackmon, Ph.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
May 8, 2013

Michael T.
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I, Michael T. Williams, S.C. Educator Certificate 208241, understand there has been an investigation concerning alleged violations of the laws and regulations governing the practice of education certificate holders and that I have waived my right to a hearing in this matter. I understand that the terms set forth in this Consent Agreement are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review; I hereby freely, knowingly and agree to the suspension my educator certificate to the South Carolina State Board of Education. I agree that I will not serve as a volunteer or be employed as an educator, paraprofessional, aide, substitute teacher, band teacher, coach, or in any other position in a public school in the State of South Carolina, except in any capacities as a parent. I agree to the proposed Consent Order, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board on May 8, 2013.

Michael T. Williams
Michael T. Williams

April 21, 2013
Date