

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Permanent Revocation)
of the Educator Certificate of)
Michael Delaney Patterson)
Certificate 245025)

ORDER OF PERMANENT REVOCATION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on April 9, 2014. On December 23, 2013, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent a notice letter to Mr. Michael Delaney Patterson that the State Board would meet to make a determination regarding the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate 245025 based on the statutory grounds of unprofessional conduct pursuant to S.C. Code § 59-25-160 (Rev. 2004) and that he was entitled to a hearing. Mr. Patterson received the notice as evidenced by a domestic return-receipt bearing his signature. After receiving the notice, Mr. Patterson informed the SCDE that he had left the teaching profession. He 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. Patterson's educator certificate 245025, effective April 9, 2014.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The State Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 and § 59-25-160 (Rev. 2004).

Mr. Patterson holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate and has seven years of teaching experience in North Carolina. In late October 2013, the SCDE received notification that Mr. Patterson's North Carolina professional teaching license had been permanently revoked. The SCDE obtained information from the North Carolina State Board of Education concerning Mr. Patterson's disciplinary matter.

The Order from the North Carolina State Board of Education states that Mr. Patterson had received several warnings concerning his behavior around female teachers and parents of his students, beginning in May 2003. The first warning resulted from Mr. Patterson telling at least

three different teachers about the details of dreams that he had involving each of the female teachers and that they were possibly sexual in nature. In November 2004, Mr. Patterson received a second warning letter about parent complaints of his engaging in inappropriate behavior with two female parents at school. Mr. Patterson had commented that he had “crazy dreams” about each of them. In January 2009, the father of one of Mr. Patterson’s students informed the principal of the school that Mr. Patterson was having an affair with his wife. The District suspended Mr. Patterson with pay. Mr. Patterson later admitted to the assistant superintendent that he did have a sexual relationship with the mother of one of his students.

On June 25, 2009, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction sent a Notice and Finding of Reasonable Cause and Statement of Charges to Mr. Patterson by certified mail, return receipt requested. The return receipt bore the signature of Michael Patterson. Mr. Patterson did not respond and defaulted on his right to challenge the recommended revocation. On September 9, 2009, the North Carolina State Board of Education permanently revoked Mr. Patterson’s professional license in North Carolina.

On December 23, 2013, the SCDE sent a notice letter to Mr. Patterson that the State Board would meet to make a determination regarding the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate 245025 based on the statutory grounds of unprofessional conduct as a result of the permanent revocation of his North Carolina professional license. On January 2, 2014, Mr. Patterson received the notice as evidenced by a domestic return-receipt bearing his signature. Mr. Patterson contacted the SCDE and stated he had left the teaching profession. He 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. Patterson’s educator certificate 245025, effective April 9, 2014.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

“The State Board may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (Rev. 2004). Just cause includes “unprofessional conduct.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (Rev. 2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (Supp. 2011). The State Board finds that Mr. Patterson engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of his inappropriate comments of a sexual nature to female teachers and parents and his sexual relationship with a female parent of one of his students at the school.

The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE supports its decision that just cause exists to permanently revoke the educator certificate of Michael Delaney Patterson, certificate 245025. The permanent revocation of Mr. Patterson's educator certificate 245025 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: _____

Barry F. Bolen, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

April 9, 2014