

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation)
)
of the Educator Certificate of)
)
William Albert Brown,)
)
Certificate 239229)
_____)

ORDER OF REVOCATION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 13, 2014. On May 11, 2012, Mr. William Albert Brown was arrested in Dorchester County, South Carolina and charged with Assault and Battery 2nd Degree, S.C. Code Ann. § 16-3-600(D)(1) (Supp. 2012) and Criminal Solicitation of a Minor, S.C. Code Ann. § 16-15-342 (Supp. 2012). On May 21, 2012, the Chair of the State Board summarily suspended Mr. Brown's educator certificate. On May 21, 2012, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice to Mr. Brown informing him that his educator certificate had been summarily suspended and of the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. On May 23, 2012, Mr. Brown received the notice as evidence by a signed receipt bearing his signature.

On February 11, 2014, Mr. Brown plead guilty to the misdemeanor offense of Assault and Battery, 2nd Degree pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 16-3-600 (D)(1) (Supp. 2012).

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to revoke Mr. Brown's educator certificate 239229, effective August 13, 2014.

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

Mr. Brown holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate and has over eighteen years of teaching experience. Mr. Brown had been employed by the Dorchester County School District Two (District) as an English teacher at Charles B. Dubose Middle School (School). The District placed Mr. Brown on administrative leave, with pay, effective May 10, 2011, following the District's receipt of allegations that on May 9, 2011, Mr. Brown made inappropriate

comments and inappropriately touched a female student during the administration of the PASS test at the school. On May 11, 2012 Mr. Brown was arrested and charged with Assault and Battery, 2nd Degree pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 16-3-600 (D)(1) (Supp. 2012) and Criminal Solicitation of a Minor, S.C. Code Ann. § 16-15-342 (Supp. 2012). In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(C) (2004) and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the SCDE requested that the Chair of the State Board summarily suspend Mr. Brown's educator certificate as a result of his arrest and his alleged unprofessional conduct. On May 21, 2012, the Chair of the State Board summarily suspended Mr. Brown's educator certificate. On June 21, 2012, the District terminated his employment.

On May 21, 2012 the SCDE sent notice to Mr. Brown that his South Carolina Educator Certificate was summarily suspended and the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. On May 23, 2012, Mr. Brown received the notice as evidence by a signed receipt bearing his signature. Mr. Brown did not request a hearing in this matter and is in default.

On February 11, 2014, Mr. Brown plead guilty to the misdemeanor offense of Assault and Battery, 2nd Degree pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 16-3-600 (D)(1) (Supp. 2012). The Criminal Solicitation of a Minor, S.C. Code Ann. § 16-15-342 (Supp. 2012), charge was dismissed. The Court sentenced Mr. Brown to time served per the 544 days he had already served.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to revoke Mr. Brown's educator certificate 239229, effective August 13, 2014.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

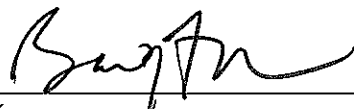
"The State Board may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (Rev. 2004). Just cause includes "unprofessional conduct, crime against the law of this state, and evident unfitness for position for which employed." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (Rev. 2004); 2 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2011). The State Board finds that Mr. Brown engaged in unprofessional conduct, committed a crime against the law of this state, and demonstrated evident unfitness for position for which employed, as a result of his inappropriate conduct towards a female student and his

guilty plea on February 11, 2014, to the misdemeanor charge of Assault and Battery, 2nd Degree pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 16-3-600 (D)(1) (Supp. 2012).

The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE supports its decision that just cause exists to revoke educator certificate 239229 issued in the name of William Albert Brown. The permanent revocation of Mr. Brown's educator certificate 239229 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
August 13, 2014