

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension	)	
	)	
or Revocation of the	)	ORDER OF
	)	
Educator Certificate of	)	SUSPENSION
	)	
Sutton Kinsley	)	
	)	
Certificate 240616	)	
_____	)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on November 12, 2014. On February 19, 2014, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Sutton Kinsley a notice of her right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina educator certificate 240616 by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. Ms. Kinsley received the notice on March 4, 2014, as evidenced by postal verification. Ms. Kinsley did not request a hearing in this matter and is in default. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspended Ms. Kinsley's educator certificate for a period of one year commencing on November 12, 2014, and ending on November 11, 2015.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Kinsley holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over three years of teaching experience. Ms. Kinsley had been employed by the District since August 2013 as a teacher at Thornwell School for the Arts (School), until her resignation on November 25, 2013.

Ms. Kinsley's resignation followed an incident in October 2013 involving allegations that Ms. Kinsley had taken money from some teachers' purses at the School. The District received reports that several School employees reported missing money and Ms. Kinsley had been observed near the location of the thefts where money had been taken from the purses. When confronted by the principal, Ms. Kinsley admitted she had stolen money belonging to an employee at the School. The District placed Ms. Kinsley on

administrative leave on October 4, 2013. The District notified her of a pending action for her termination on October 23, 2013, as a result of ongoing concerns with Ms. Kinsley's performance and her admission to stealing money from an employee at the School. On November 25, 2013, Ms. Kinsley resigned her position with the District.

On February 19, 2014, the SCDE served Ms. Kinsley with a notice of her right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina educator certificate 240616 by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. Ms. Kinsley received the notice on March 4, 2014, as evidenced by a signed postal receipt. Ms. Kinsley did not request a hearing in this matter and is in default.

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 (Rev. 2004); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (Rev. 2004). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (Rev. 2004); 2 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2011). The State Board finds that the evidence presented, which is undisputed by Ms. Kinsley, demonstrates that Ms. Kinsley engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of her admission to stealing money belonging to an employee at the School. The State Board finds that the information presented supports its conclusion that just cause exists to suspend the educator certificate of Sutton Kinsley on the grounds of unprofessional conduct for a period of one year commencing on November 12, 2014, and ending on November 11, 2015.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Sutton Kinsley, certificate 240616, is suspended for a period of one year commencing on November 12, 2014, and ending on November 11, 2015. If Ms. Kinsley wishes to have her certificate reinstated at the conclusion of the period of suspension, she shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Services. She shall be responsible for meeting all certification requirements in effect at the time she requests reinstatement and for the payment of any applicable reinstatement fees.

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The suspension of Ms. Kinsley' educator certificate 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
November 12, 2014