

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of Revocation)
)
of the Educator Certificate of)
)
Holly A. Emanuel,)
)
Certificate 240051)
_____)

ORDER OF REVOCATION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on February 10, 2016. On October 22, 2015, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice to Holly A. Emanuel, by regular and certified mail, informing her that the State Board would meet to make a determination regarding the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate on the grounds of unprofessional conduct. Ms. Emanuel received the written notice and informed the SCDE Office of General Counsel on January 21, 2015, that she had received the notice and that she was not requesting a hearing in this matter since she had left the field of teaching.

After considering the evidence presented concerning Ms. Emanuel's unprofessional conduct, the State Board voted to revoke Ms. Emanuel's educator certificate 240051, effective February 10, 2016.

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

On February 18, 2015, the Lancaster County School District (District) notified the SCDE that employee Holly A. Emanuel had resigned from her employment with the district, effective January 23, 2015, following an investigation into allegations that Ms. Emanuel had behaved in an unprofessional manner as a result of her inviting students to her residence and allegedly providing alcohol to them as well as inappropriately communicating with male students by texting, instant messaging and telephone calls. The Director of School Safety had been told that Ms. Emanuel was believed to have exchanged pills for alcohol on at least one occasion. The matter was reported to law enforcement. No criminal charges were filed against Ms. Emanuel. The District also had concerns regarding Ms. Emanuel's frequent tardiness, yelling at her students, applying make-up in class and bringing pets to class in violation of District policy. The District had addressed these concerns in two letters to Ms. Emanuel in September 2015.

On October 22, 2015, the SCDE sent notice to Ms. Emanuel, by regular and certified mail, informing her that the State Board would meet to make a determination regarding the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate on the grounds of unprofessional conduct. On January 21, 2015, Ms. Emanuel informed the SCDE that she had received the notice letter and that that she was not requesting a hearing in this matter since she had left the field of teaching.

After considering the evidence presented concerning Ms. Emanuel's unprofessional conduct, the State Board voted to revoke Ms. Emanuel's educator certificate 240051, effective February 10, 2016.

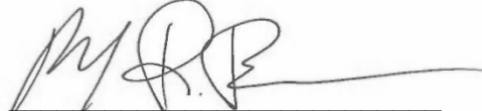
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Ms. Emanuel engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of her inappropriate communication and interactions with students, providing alcohol to students in her home, as well as her inappropriate classroom behavior, during her employment as a teacher with the Lancaster County School District.

The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE supports its decision that just cause exists to revoke educator certificate 240051 issued in the name of Holly A. Emanuel. The revocation of Ms. Emanuel's educator certificate 240051 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: 
Michael R. Brenan, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
February 10, 2016