

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension of)
)
the Educator Certificate of)
)
Erin Lacey Condon)
)
Certificate 266144)

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on October 11, 2016. On April 27, 2016, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Erin Lacey Condon a notice of her right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina educator certificate 253737 by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. Ms. Condon received the notice on May 11, 2016, as evidenced by postal verification. Ms. Condon did not request a hearing and is in default. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspended Ms. Condon's educator certificate for a period of one year commencing on October 11, 2016, and ending on October 10, 2017.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Condon holds an initial educator certificate and has no prior professional teaching experience. For her first year of teaching she was hired by Horry County School District (District) as a teacher at Whittemore Park Middle School.

Ms. Condon was arrested on February 23, 2015, and was charged with possession of a controlled substance. Ms. Condon, according to records from the Conway Police Department, allegedly possessed a total of 11 pills identified as amphetamine and dextroamphetamine. This was Ms. Condon's first offense. The arrest occurred on school grounds in the principal's office, where Ms. Condon was being questioned in regards to two computers that were signed out of the School to her care. One of the computers contained messages indicating that Ms. Condon used the device in to obtain narcotics. Following the start of an investigation, Ms. Condon resigned from the District.

On April 27, 2016, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Erin Lacey Condon a notice of her right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina educator certificate 253737 by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. Ms. Condon received the notice on May 11, 2016, as evidenced by postal verification. Ms. Condon did not request a hearing and is in default. After considering the information presented by the SCDE, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Condon's educator certificate 266144 for a period of one year, commencing on October 11, 2016, and ending on October 10 2017.

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, immorality, conduct involving moral turpitude, and evident unfitness for position for which employed. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE demonstrates that Ms. Condon engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of the questionable messages on the School's computer and her arrest for possession of a controlled substance. The State Board finds that the information presented supports its conclusion that just cause exists to suspend the educator certificate of Erin Lacey Condon on the grounds of unprofessional conduct for a period of one year commencing on October 11, 2016, and ending on October 10, 2017.

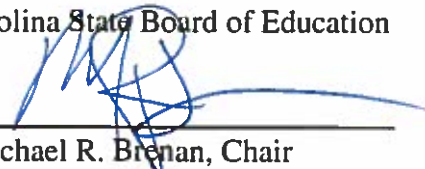
Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Erin Lacey Condon, certificate 266144, is suspended for a period of one year commencing on October 11, 2016, and ending on October 10, 2017. If Ms. Condon wishes to have her certificate reinstated at the conclusion of the period of suspension, she shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Services. Ms. Condon 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. The suspension of Ms. Condon's educator certificate shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

Erin Lacey Condon, Certificate 266144
Order of Suspension
October 11, 2016
Page 3

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By:



Michael R. Brennan, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
October 11, 2016