

In the Matter of Disciplinary Action)
of the Educator Certificate of)
Amy N. Drawdy,)
Certificate 244612)

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered the matter on October 9, 2018. On June 28, 2018, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent a notice of her right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate, by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. On August 8, 2018, a final letter was sent to Ms. Drawdy via regular and certified mail that the State Board would meet on September 11, 2018¹, to make a determination regarding the possible disciplinary action of her educator certificate. SCDE has verified Ms. Drawdy's address and the letters sent via regular mail have not been returned. Ms. Drawdy has refused to sign for the certified mail. Under the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure 5(b), Ms. Drawdy has been given fair notice of constitutional due process. Ms. Drawdy has not requested a hearing in this matter and is in default. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Drawdy's educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on September 11, 2018, and ending on September 10, 2019.

Ms. Drawdy holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over eight years of teaching experience. The Greenville County School District (District) employed Ms. Drawdy as a Spanish teacher at Mauldin High School (School) for the 2016-2017 school year.

Ms. Drawdy was placed on administrative leave on March 9, 2017. On Friday, March 3, 2017, students reported to School administration that they had concerns about Ms. Drawdy driving herself home at the end of the day. The student stated that Ms. Drawdy had been nodding

¹ The South Carolina Department of Education Board meeting, scheduled for September 11, 2018, was cancelled pursuant to Governor McMaster's Executive Order 30-2018, which closed government offices due to impending weather. All cases from the September Board meeting were subsequently presented at the October meeting.

off in class. When the student asked if she was okay, Ms. Drawdy admitted she had taking a prescription medication due to her rough day. Ms. Drawdy told the student her home had been broken into and that the day was the anniversary of her boyfriend's death.

At approximately 7:15 pm that evening, another administrator in the District called the School's administration with concerns about Ms. Drawdy's behavior during an after school tutoring program. After the program had ended, Ms. Drawdy was found bent under a table in an empty classroom. She claimed she had lost her phone and was very concerned about locating it. During a continued search, Ms. Drawdy exhibited strange behavior, including moving classroom items outside the building at a backdoor, which led to further investigation.

On Monday, March 6, 2017, Ms. Drawdy was called to a meeting with School administration to discuss her behavior. Ms. Drawdy later admitted to lying to the administration during this meeting. She originally informed School administrators that she had taken a prescription medication, but failed to inform them that she did not have a prescription for the medication at the time of the incident. Ms. Drawdy then obtained a prescription on March 7, 2017, and attempted to backdate the prescription. Ms. Drawdy also admitted to stealing the classroom items she had placed by a back door. She did not recall taking the items and apologized for supervising students while on such a strong dose of medication. Ms. Drawdy was allowed to resign from the District.

The SCDE learned of Ms. Drawdy's resignation on January 29, 2018. Ms. Drawdy was notified of possible action against her South Carolina educator certificate 244612. She did not request a hearing and is now in default.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Drawdy's educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on September 11, 2018, and ending on September 10, 2019.

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 (2017); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2017). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2017). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates Ms. Drawdy engaged in

unprofessional conduct by bringing illegal drugs on to School grounds, supervising students while under the influence of drugs, lying to her supervisors, and stealing District property.

Accordingly, the evidence presented supports the State Board's determination that just cause exists to suspend the educator certificate of Amy N. Drawdy, Educator Certificate 244612, for a period of one year, commencing on September 11, 2018, and ending on September 10, 2019.

If Ms. Drawdy wishes to have her educator certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, she shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Services and shall meet all certification requirements in effect at the time she requests reinstatement. The suspension of Ms. Drawdy's Educator Certificate 244612 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: Sharon Wall
Sharon Wall, Ed.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
October 9, 2018