

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Peter Heffner
Certificate 211142

ORDER OF REVOCATION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on November 10, 2020. On June 30, 2020, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent a notice letter to Peter Heffner regarding the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate. Mr. Heffner received the notice, has not requested a hearing, and is now in default. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to revoke Mr. Heffner's educator certificate 211142, effective November 10, 2020.

FINDINGS OF FACT

This is a disciplinary matter involving unprofessional conduct. Mr. Heffner holds an expired South Carolina professional educator certificate and had over two years of educator experience when he left South Carolina.

On April 30, 2020, the SCDE's Office of Educator Services (OES) notified the SCDE's Office of General Counsel (OGC) that Mr. Heffner a disciplinary action was issued against his educator certification in California. This information was received through the NADSTEC Clearinghouse and confirmed by the OES. The OES also notified the OGC that Mr. Heffner's South Carolina educator certification contained a pending action from 2005. The OGC referred to archived materials and learned Mr. Heffner was the subject of a pending action in 2005 due to his actions when he served as a substitute in South Carolina in 2004 and 2005. Mr. Heffner asked for a hearing at that time, but subsequently left the state and refused to participate in the disciplinary process. The OGC placed a note in Mr. Heffner's file but did not pursue the matter further at that time.

Effective December 10, 2019, the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing revoked Mr. Heffner's California teaching certificate. The California order was issued in default, noting that Mr. Hefner had been notified of the pending action and had not exercised his right to a hearing in the matter. The revocation was issued due to Mr. Heffner's failure to participate in

and fulfil the requirements of another order that placed his California teaching certification on a probationary status.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to revoke Mr. Heffner's educator certificate 211142, effective November 10, 2020.

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 (2016). Just cause includes "unprofessional conduct, crime against the law of this State or the United States, evident unfitness for position for which employed, and sale or possession of narcotics." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2016). Accordingly, the evidence presented supports the State Board's determination that just cause exists to revoke the educator certificate of Peter Heffner, Educator Certificate 211142, effective September 8, 2020.

Mr. Heffner has the right to apply for certification after three years. Mr. Heffner shall, pursuant to State Board Rule BBCDB, be subject to a character and fitness review before the State Board with employment information during the period of certificate surrender; community service records; letters of support from a current or prospective school district employer, if applicable; letters of support from community leaders; and SLED and FBI background checks. Mr. Heffner shall also pay all applicable fees for certification, if any. The revocation of Mr. Heffner'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.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: s/Michael Brenan
Michael Brenan, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
November 10, 2020