

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Ronald Eric Nix
Certificate 223193

ORDER OF PERMANENT REVOCATION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on February 8, 2022. On December 2, 2021, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent a notice letter to Ronald Eric Nix regarding the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate. The letters have not been returned and the SCDE has verified Mr. Nix's address. On December 31, 2021, the SCDE sent Mr. Nix a final notice informing him that this matter would be presented to the State Board on February 8, 2022. Mr. Nix has been given fair notice of constitutional due process. He has not contacted the SCDE to request a hearing and is now in default. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to permanently revoke Mr. Nix's educator certificate 223193, effective February 8, 2022.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Nix holds a South Carolina educator certificate and has no prior teaching experience in South Carolina. The SCDE learned of Mr. Nix's misconduct through the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) clearinghouse on November 8, 2021.

Mr. Nix began teaching in Utah in 2006. On May 27, 2020, Mr. Nix's school district notified the Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission (UPPAC) that local law enforcement informed them Mr. Nix had engaged in sexual misconduct with a student. The misconduct occurred during the 2011-2012 school year, when the student was an eighteen year old senior. Because the student was not a minor, criminal charges were not filed. After the student graduated, the relationship continued and they became Mr. Nix's instructional assistant. On January 15, 2021, Mr. Nix signed an agreement to voluntarily surrender his Utah educator's license.

Mr. Nix has not responded to the notice letters from the SCDE and has not requested a hearing in this matter. The SCDE has considered evidence provided by the UPPAC. After

considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to permanently revoke Mr. Nix's educator certificate 223193, effective February 8, 2022.

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). The State Board finds that (EDUCATOR) engaged in unprofessional conduct, immorality, and conduct involving moral turpitude, due to the allegations of an inappropriate sexual relationship with a student.

The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE supports its decision that just cause exists to permanently revoke educator certificate 223193, issued in the name of Ronald Eric Nix, effective 223193. The permanent revocation of Mr. Nix's educator certificate 223193 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/Alan Walters
Alan Walters, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
February 8, 2022