

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Beverly Roy Steele
Certificate 270927

ORDER OF REVOCATION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on February 08, 2022. On September 28, 2021, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Beverly Roy Steele a notice via regular and certified mail of her right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina educator certificate. The SCDE has verified Ms. Steele's address, has received a signed receipt for certified mail, and the letter sent via regular mail has not been returned. On January 7, 2022, the SCDE sent Ms. Steele notice that this matter would be presented to the State Board on February 8, 2022. Ms. Steele has been given fair notice of constitutional due process. She has not contacted the SCDE to request a hearing and is now in default.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to revoke Beverly Roy Steele's educator certificate 270927, effective February 08, 2022.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Steele holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate. Ms. Steele has over thirteen years of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. At the time of her arrest, Ms. Steele was employed by Florence County School District One (District). She resigned from the District, effective March 31, 2021.

On May 31, 2020, Ms. Steele was arrested and charged with sixty counts of forgery. The charges related to Ms. Steele's unauthorized use of an acquaintance's check book that was used to cash checks written to herself. The illegal activity was discovered when the acquaintance reviewed their financial information for tax purposes. Ms. Steele pled guilty to one felony count of forgery, resulting in five years of probation and an order to pay restitution in the amount of forty-six thousand, one hundred and sixty-two dollars.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to revoke Ms. Steele's educator certificate 270927, effective February 08, 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, and evident unfitness for position for which employed." 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 Beverly Roy Steele, Educator Certificate 270927, effective February 08, 2022.

Ms. Steele has the right to apply for certification after three years. Ms. Steele 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. Ms. Steele shall also pay all applicable fees for certification, if any. The revocation of Ms. Steele'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/Alan Walters
Alan Walters, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
February 08, 2022