

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Kimberly D. Bone
Certificate 224084

Order of Summary Suspension

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on March 10, 2023. In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2020), § 59-5-10 (2020), and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) requested that the Chair of the State Board summarily suspend the educator certificate of Kimberly D. Bone, educator certificate 224084, as a result of her arrest for kidnapping and assault and battery in the third degree.

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of these allegations of misconduct, Ms. Bone may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students, who may be under her instruction and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Ms. Bone's educator certificate shall be summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Bone of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Bone holds a South Carolina educator certificate and has over 18 years of educator experience. At the time of her arrest, Ms. Bone was a teacher for the Horry County School District (District). On January 27, 2023, the District placed Ms. Bone on administrative leave.

Following an investigation into a domestic dispute with her roommate, Ms. Bone was arrested on felony charges of kidnapping and one misdemeanor count of assault and battery in the third degree.

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of this allegation of misconduct, Ms. Bone may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students who may be under her instruction, and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Ms. Bone's educator certificate shall be summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Ms. Bone of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2020); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2020). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct, crime against the law of this State, and evident unfitness for position for which employed. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2020); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2021). In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2020), "If the agency finds that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, summary suspension of a license may be ordered pending proceedings for revocation or other action." Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-5-10 (2020) and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the Chair of the State Board finds that as a result of the allegations of Ms. Bone's unprofessional conduct, crime against the law of this State or the United States, and evident unfitness for the position for which employed, due to her arrest for kidnapping and assault and battery in the third degree, there is reason to believe Ms. Bone may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students and emergency action is required.

Accordingly, the educator certificate of Kimberly D. Bone, certificate number 224084, is summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved.

Kimberly D. Bone, Certificate 224084
ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION
March 10, 2023
Page 3

The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Bone of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina Board of Education

s/Crystal F. Stapleton, Ed.D.
Crystal F. Stapleton, Ed.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
March 10, 2023