

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Dennis G. Shoemaker
Certificate 275685

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on March 14, 2023. On September 29, 2022, and October 14, 2022, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Dennis G. Shoemaker a notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, regarding the possible suspension of his South Carolina educator certificate 275685. Mr. Shoemaker contacted the SCDE after receiving the notice to discuss the matter. Mr. Shoemaker stopped communications with the SCDE without reaching an alternate resolution. On February 8, 2023, the SCDE sent Mr. Shoemaker notice that he had not requested a hearing and this matter would be presented to the State Board on March 14, 2023, unless a hearing request was received. He has not requested a hearing and is now in default.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Mr. Shoemaker's educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on March 14, 2023, and ending on March 13, 2024. Mr. Shoemaker will also be required to complete the NASDTEC Prevention and Correction course prior to reinstatement of his certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Shoemaker holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate. He has over eleven years of educator experience and has no record of prior disciplinary action with the State Board. Mr. Shoemaker was employed as a resource teacher at North Augusta High School (School) with the Aiken County School District (District). He resigned from the District on December 1, 2020.

On October 16, 2020, Mr. Shoemaker was assisting with the football game along with several female students. While preparing for the beginning of the game, a 13-year-old student asked Mr. Shoemaker if he liked her shirt. He responded by telling her the shirt was "slutty."

Shortly thereafter, the student and Mr. Shoemaker encountered a second female student who wore jeans with several holes in them. Mr. Shoemaker stated the jeans made the student look like a “hoe.” Similar comments were made to a third student who also wore clothes and makeup that Mr. Shoemaker found to be inappropriate.

During a District investigation in to the incident, the District received new allegations that Mr. Shoemaker often antagonized the students in his classroom. It was alleged Mr. Shoemaker would comment on clothing choices and made comments on their intelligence. He often had a condescending or sarcastic attitude towards his both his students and classroom staff members.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Order of Suspension of Mr. Shoemaker’s educator certificate 275685 for a period of one year, commencing on March 14, 2023, and ending on March 13, 2024.

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. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2020); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2021). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Mr. Shoemaker engaged in unprofessional conduct by making inappropriate comments towards and in front of students. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Mr. Shoemaker’s educator certificate 275685 for a period of one year, commencing on March 14, 2023, and ending on March 13, 2024.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Dennis G. Shoemaker educator certificate 275685, is suspended for a period of one year, commencing on March 14, 2023, and ending on March 13, 2024. Mr. Shoemaker will also be required to complete the NASDTEC Prevention and Correction course.

If Mr. Shoemaker wishes to have the certificate reinstated at the conclusion of the period of suspension, he shall make a written request to the SCDE’s Office of Educator Services. Mr. Shoemaker shall be responsible for meeting all certification requirements in effect at the time he requests reinstatement and for the payment of any applicable reinstatement fees. He shall

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provide the SCDE Office of Educator Services proof of the successful completion of the NASDTEC Prevention and Correction course prior to requesting reinstatement of his educator certificate. The suspension of Mr. Shoemaker'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

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

Columbia, South Carolina
March 14, 2023