

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of Revocation)
)
of the Educator Certificate of)
)
Chad A. Silvers,)
)
Certificate 905214)
_____)

ORDER OF REVOCATION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on October 11, 2016. On July 29, 2016, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice to Chad A. Silvers, by regular and certified mail, informing him that the State Board would meet to make a determination regarding the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate on the grounds of unprofessional conduct. Mr. Silvers received the written notice, as evidenced by the signed mail receipt dated August 8, 2016. He has not responded to this notice and is now in default. After considering the evidence presented concerning Mr. Silvers' unprofessional conduct, the State Board voted to revoke Mr. Silvers' educator certificate 905214, effective October 11, 2016.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Silvers received his South Carolina educator license in 2012 through the Career and Technology Education program. He has three years of experience and had been employed as an instructor at the R.D. Anderson Applied Technology Center (Center) since 2013.

On February 16, 2016, the Director of the Center notified the SCDE that Mr. Silvers had resigned after allegations arose of an inappropriate relationship with a female student. On February 10, 2016, the Director informed Mr. Silvers that based on his inappropriate text messages with a student at the Center, she was recommending his termination to the R. D. Anderson Board of Trustees. Mr. Silvers admitted to sending the inappropriate text messages to a female student and resigned immediately on February 10, 2016. The texts were brought to the attention of the Center's director after the student's parents found a picture on the student's cell phone. The picture shows the female student standing inappropriately close to Mr. Silvers, with his arm around her waist. The parents also located numerous text messages from Mr. Silvers inviting the student to have dinner and spend time at his house. The messages include

suggestions on meeting locations in order to avoid being seen by the student's parents. Mr. Silvers also cautioned the student to not tell anyone of their messages.

Mr. Silvers has been warned in the past about inappropriate communication with his students. In September 2013, Mr. Silvers was caught texting another female student. At that time the Center placed Mr. Silvers on administrative leave while the matter was investigated. The result of that investigation was a letter of reprimand reminding Mr. Silvers that text messaging was never an appropriate way to communicate with students and that Mr. Silver must maintain a professional teacher/student relationship. The reprimand also admonished Mr. Silvers that all communication with students should be "positive, professional and intended for all audiences with no room for interpretation." Mr. Silvers failed to comply with the District directive when he initiated inappropriate texting with another female student in 2016.

On July 29, 2016, the SCDE sent notice to Mr. Silvers, by regular and certified mail, informing him that the State Board would meet to make a determination regarding the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate on the grounds of unprofessional conduct. Mr. Silvers received the written notice, as evidenced by the signed mail receipt dated August 8, 2016. Mr. Silvers did not request a hearing in this matter and is now in default. After considering the evidence presented concerning Mr. Silvers' unprofessional conduct, the State Board voted to revoke Mr. Silvers' educator certificate 905214, effective October 11, 2016.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Mr. Silvers engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of his inappropriate texting and relationship with a female student during his employment as an instructor at the Center and his failure to comply with the District directive regarding communication with students.

The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE supports its decision that just cause exists to revoke educator certificate 905214 issued in the name of Chad A. Silvers. The revocation of Mr. Silvers' educator certificate 905214 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: _____


Michael R. Brennan, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
October 11, 2016