

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation)
)
Or Suspension of the) **ORDER OF**
)
Educator Certificate of) **SUSPENSION**
)
John Robert Goldston)
)
Certificate 248341)

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 8, 2012. On May 22, 2012, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice to Mr. John Robert Goldston of the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. On May 29, 2012, Mr. Goldston received the notice as evidenced by a receipt bearing his signature. Mr. Goldston did not request a hearing within the time specified in the notice and is in default. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Mr. Goldston' educator certificate for a period of two years, commencing on August 8, 2012, and ending on August 7, 2014.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Goldston holds a professional educator certificate and has over three years of teaching experience with no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. An employee of Sumter County School District (District), Mr. Goldston taught Science at Lakewood High School (School), until tendering his resignation on March 12, 2012. Allegations from a female student led the District to conduct an investigation regarding two inappropriate notes written to that student. The District investigation shows that Mr. Goldston admitted to writing both notes to the student. Mr. Goldston told the District that he knew the notes were inappropriate, but they were not intended as serious communication.

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CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004) and may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004), S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004), 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (Supp 2010). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct and any conduct which evidences unfitness for

teaching. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2011). The State Board finds that Mr. Goldston engaged in unprofessional conduct, and demonstrated unfitness for teaching as a result of his two inappropriate, handwritten notes to a female student. The State Board further finds that the information presented by the SCDE supports its determination that just cause exists to suspend Mr. Goldston's educator certificate 248341.

The State Board now, therefore, orders suspension of the educator certificate of John Robert Goldston, certificate 248341, for a period of two years, beginning August 8, 2012, and ending August 7, 2014. The NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts shall receive report of the suspension within thirty days from the date of this order with the reasons stated as "unprofessional conduct" and "evident unfitness for position."

If Mr. Goldston wishes to have his educator certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, he shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Certification, Recruitment and Preparation. Mr. Goldston will be responsible for meeting all current certification requirements at the time he requests re-certification and shall be responsible for the payment of a reinstatement fee.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: 

David Blackmon, PhD, Chair-Elect

Columbia, South Carolina
August 8, 2012