

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation or)
Suspension of the Educator Certificate of)
Jonathan N. Dover,)
Certificate 210398)
_____)

**ORDER OF
SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The Chair of the South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on December 18, 2014. In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2004), § 59-5-10 (2004), 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 Jonathan N. Dover, certificate 210398, as a result of his arrest on December 16, 2014, and being charged with Sexual Battery with a Student, 16 or 17 years of age, in accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 16-3-755 (Supp. 2014).

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of these allegations of misconduct, Mr. Dover may pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of students that may be under his instruction and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Mr. Dover’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 Mr. Dover of the summary suspension, as well as, the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Dover holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate and has over twelve years of teaching experience in South Carolina. Mr. Dover has been employed by the Spartanburg County School District Three (District) since 2013. Mr. Dover was employed as an AP United States History and American Government teacher at Broome High School (School). Mr. Dover also served as an assistant football coach at the School. The District began investigating Mr. Dover, with the help of the school law enforcement officer, upon learning of rumors of Mr. Dover’s alleged inappropriate conduct with a female student at the School. During a meeting on December 8, 2014, with District administration concerning the investigation, Mr. Dover asked to resign. The District accepted his resignation immediately.

On December 16, 2014, the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Department arrested Mr. Dover and charged him with Sexual Battery with a student 16 or 17 years of age, in accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 16-3-755 (Supp. 2014), as a result of allegations that Mr. Dover engaged in an inappropriate physical relationship with a female student either 16 or 17 years of age between the dates of August 1, 2014, to December 5, 2014. Mr. Dover's alleged misconduct violated school board policies setting forth the District's expectations for staff conduct.

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of these allegations of misconduct, Mr. Dover may pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of students that may be under his instruction and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Mr. Dover'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 Mr. Dover 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 (2004). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct, immorality, any conduct involving moral turpitude, and evident unfitness for position for which employed. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2011). In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2004), "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 (2004) and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the Chair of the State Board finds that as a result of Mr. Dover's inappropriate communication and physical contact of a sexual nature with a female student, he has engaged in unprofessional conduct, immorality, conduct involving moral turpitude, and demonstrated evident unfitness for position for which employed. The Chair also finds that there is reason to believe that Mr. Dover may pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of students and that emergency action is required. Accordingly, the educator certificate of Jonathan N. Dover, certificate 210398, is summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Mr. Dover of the summary suspension, as well as, the possible suspension or revocation of his

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educator certificate. The suspension of Mr. Dover's educator certificate 210398 shall be immediately reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education



By: _____
Traci Young-Cooper, Ed.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
December 18, 2014