

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation)
of the Educator Certificate of)
Tyler C. Pitt)
Certificate 248421)
_____)

**ORDER OF PERMANENT
REVOCATION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on January 8, 2014. In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2005), and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the Chair of the State Board summarily suspended the educator certificate of Tyler C. Pitt, certificate 248421, on January 20, 2012, following his arrest on or about December 8, 2011, and being charged with the felony offense of Disseminating Obscene Material to a Person under the Age of Eighteen pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 16-15-345 (Supp. 2013).

On January 20, 2012, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent a notice letter to Mr. Pitt informing him of the summary suspension and that the State Board would meet to make a determination regarding the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina Educator Certificate. The letter also informed Mr. Pitt of his right to a hearing in this matter. On January 22, 2012, Mr. Pitt received the notice as evidenced by a postal receipt bearing his signature.

On December 17, 2013, Mr. Pitt plead guilty to Dissemination of Obscene Material to a Person Under the Age of Eighteen in violation of S.C. Code Ann. § 16-15-345 (Supp. 2013) and Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor in violation of S.C. Code § 16-17-490 (Supp. 2013).

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to permanently revoke Mr. Pitt's educator certificate 248421, effective January 8, 2014.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The State Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004).

Mr. Pitt holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate and has less than one year of teaching experience. During the 2011-2012 school year, Mr. Pitt was employed by the Newberry County School District (District) as a teacher and coach at Whitmire Community

School (School). Mr. Tyler resigned from the District, effective November 16, 2011, following the District's receipt of allegations that he had participated in electronic communications with a former student that were inconsistent with a professional staff-student relationship.

On January 20, 2012, in accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2004), § 59-5-10 (2004), and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the SCDE requested that the Chair of the State Board summarily suspend Mr. Pitt's educator certificate 248421, as a result of his being arrested on or about December 12, 2011, in Spartanburg County, South Carolina, and being charged with a felony offense, Disseminating Obscene Material to a Person Under Age Eighteen, S.C. Code Ann. § 16-15-345 (Supp. 2013). The SCDE had reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of these allegations of misconduct, Mr. Pitt may pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of students that may be under his instruction and that emergency action was required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board summarily suspended Mr. Pitt's educator certificate until a due process hearing was held and/or this matter was otherwise resolved. The Chair directed the SCDE to serve notice on Mr. Pitt of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

On January 20, 2012, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent a notice letter to Mr. Pitt informing him of the summary suspension and that the State Board would meet to make a determination regarding the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina Educator Certificate. The letter also informed Mr. Pitt of his right to a hearing in this matter. On January 22, 2012, Mr. Pitt received the notice as evidenced by a postal receipt bearing his signature. Mr. Pitt did not request a hearing in this matter and is in default.

On December 17, 2013, Mr. Pitt plead guilty to Dissemination of Obscene Material to a Person Under the Age of Eighteen in violation of S.C. Code Ann. § 16-15-345 (Supp. 2013) and Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor in violation of S.C. Code § 16-17-490 (Supp. 2013). The Court ordered that Mr. Pitt enroll in the Sex Offender Registry, participate in mental health counseling, and have no contact with the victim.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to permanently revoke Mr. Pitt's educator certificate 248421, effective January 8, 2014.

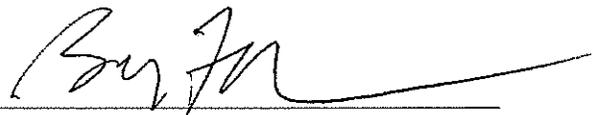
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

“The State Board may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004). Just cause includes, *inter alia*, “unprofessional conduct, immorality, conduct involving moral turpitude, crime against the law of this state, and evident unfitness for position for which employed.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (Supp. 2013). The State Board finds that Mr. Pitt engaged in unprofessional conduct, immorality, conduct involving moral turpitude, committed crimes against the law of this state and demonstrated evident unfitness for position for which employed, as a result of his guilty plea to Dissemination of Obscene Material to a Person Under the Age of Eighteen in violation of S.C. Code Ann. § 16-15-345 (Supp. 2013) and Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor in violation of S.C. Code § 16-17-490 (Supp. 2013).

The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE supports its decision that just cause exists to permanently revoke the educator certificate of Tyler C. Pitt, certificate 248421. The permanent revocation of Mr. Pitt’s educator certificate 248421 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: 

Barry F. Bolen, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

January 8, 2014