

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation	)	
	)	
of the Educator Certificate of	)	ORDER OF
	)	
Paul M. LaRue Jr.,	)	PERMANENT REVOCATION
	)	
Certificate 254127	)	
_____	)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on April 9, 2019. On December 21, 2018, the Chair of the State Board summarily suspended Mr. LaRue's South Carolina educator certificate. On December 21, 2018, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent the summary suspension order and a notice letter to Mr. LaRue regarding the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate. The SCDE utilized Mr. LaRue's address from the Certification Portal System and a search of public records. Mr. LaRue declined to sign for the notice letters sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. The SCDE has verified Mr. LaRue's address. Under the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure 5(b), Mr. LaRue has been given fair notice of constitutional due process. Mr. LaRue has not contacted the SCDE to request a hearing and is now in default. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to permanently revoke Mr. LaRue's educator certificate 254127, effective April 9, 2019.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. LaRue holds a suspended South Carolina educator certificate and has over twelve year of teaching experience. Mr. LaRue was employed by the Berkeley County School District (District) at the time of his summary suspension. On November 26, 2018, the District terminated Mr. LaRue as a result of his arrest for one felony count of sexual exploitation of a minor, 2nd degree, and nine felony counts of sexual exploitation of a minor, 3rd degree.

Mr. LaRue's arrest was the result of a police investigation of his personal computer, which revealed photographs of sexually explicit pictures of minor children. In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(C) (2017) and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the SCDE requested that the Chair of the State Board summarily suspend Mr. LaRue's educator certificate as a result of his arrest. On December 21, 2018, the Chair of the State Board summarily suspended Mr. LaRue's educator certificate.

Mr. LaRue's criminal charges are still pending. Mr. LaRue has not responded to the notice letters from the SCDE and has not requested a hearing in this matter. The SCDE has considered evidence provided by the District and law enforcement. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to permanently revoke Mr. LaRue's educator certificate 254127, effective April 9, 2019.

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 (2016). Just cause includes "unprofessional conduct, conduct involving moral turpitude, immorality, and evident unfitness for position for which employed." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2016). The State Board finds that Mr. LaRue engaged in unprofessional conduct, conduct involving moral turpitude, immorality, and evident unfitness for position for which employed, due to the allegations of possession of child pornography.

The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE supports its decision that just cause exists to permanently revoke educator certificate 254127, issued in the name of Paul M. LaRue Jr., effective April 9, 2019. The permanent revocation of Mr. LaRue's educator certificate 254127 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: s/ Del-Gratia Jones
Del-Gratia Jones, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
April 9, 2019