

**BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

In the Matter of the  
Disciplinary Action of the  
Educator Certificate of  
Mary E. Luscaleet  
Certificate 217468

**ORDER OF SUSPENSION**

**SUMMARY OF THE CASE**

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered the matter on October 8, 2019. On August 28, 2019, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent a notice letter to Mary E. Luscaleet informing her that the State Board would meet to make a determination regarding the possible disciplinary action of her educator certificate, by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. After Ms. Luscaleet did not respond, the SCDE sent a second notice letter notifying her of the pending action on September 17, 2019. On September 24, 2019, Ms. Luscaleet contacted the SCDE and stated she will not request a hearing concerning the matter of her educator certificate.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Luscaleet's educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on October 8, 2019, and ending on October 6, 2020.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

Ms. Luscaleet holds a valid South Carolina educator certificate and has over thirteen years of teaching experience. Ms. Luscaleet was employed by the Berkeley County School District (District) as a teacher at Cainhoy Elementary School (School) for the 2018-19 school year.

On January 10, 2019, the SCDE learned Ms. Luscaleet was terminated from the District for unprofessional conduct. It was alleged that on December 12, 2018, Ms. Luscaleet became upset with a student gathering their things to leave the classroom. The student was to be escorted with several others to another classroom for special instruction. However, the student had trouble gathering all of his things in a timely manner. Ms. Luscaleet yelled at the student, knocked the student's belongings to the floor, and tossed the student's assigned Chromebook onto a

bookshelf. The adult staff member that was escorting the students to their next class witnessed Ms. Luscaleet's behavior.

Ms. Luscaleet was terminated from the District on December 13, 2018. The SCDE notified Ms. Luscaleet of the pending action against her educator certificate on August 28, 2019, and on September 17, 2019. On September 24, 2019, Ms. Luscaleet called the SCDE to discuss her options in the case. She informed the SCDE that she felt she could not participate in a hearing and would not sign a consent order. When given the option of a default, Ms. Luscaleet agreed to allow her case to move forward as a default due to her desire not to move forward with a consent order or a hearing.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Luscaleet's educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on October 8, 2019, and ending on October 6, 2020.

#### **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 (2016); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Ms. Luscaleet engaged in unprofessional conduct by engaging in inappropriate treatment of a student.

Accordingly, the evidence presented supports the State Board's determination that just cause exists to suspend the educator certificate of Mary E. Luscaleet, Educator Certificate 217468, for a period of one year, commencing on October 8, 2019, and ending on October 6, 2020.

If Ms. Luscaleet wishes to have her educator certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, she shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Services and shall meet all certification requirements in effect at the time she requests reinstatement. The suspension of Ms. Luscaleet's Educator Certificate 217468 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

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**AND IT IS SO ORDERED.**

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: s/Del-Gratia Jones

Del-Gratia Jones, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina  
October 8, 2019