

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Sheri Folk Stott
Certificate 266380

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered the matter on October 8, 2019. On June 25, 2019; August 20, 2019; and September 6, 2019, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent a notice letter to Sheri Folk Stott 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. On September 11, 2019, Ms. Stott's agent signed the postal receipt. Ms. Stott has not requested a hearing in this matter and is now in default.

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Stott holds a valid South Carolina educator certificate and has over three years of teaching experience. Ms. Stott was employed by Spartanburg County School District Two (District) as a teacher at Shoally Creek Elementary School (School) for the 2018-19 school year.

This was Ms. Stott's first year with the District. After receiving several reports of concern regarding Ms. Stott's performance at work, the District requested she submit to a drug test on October 23, 2018. Ms. Stott agreed to the test, which returned positive for amphetamines and opiates. The District gave Ms. Stott an opportunity to produce a valid prescription or doctor's letter that would excuse the positive result on the drug screen. However, Ms. Stott did not provide such documentation and instead submitted her resignation, which took effect on November 20, 2018.

On November 30, 2018, the SCDE received a letter from the District to report Ms. Stott's resignation. During the investigation and pending matter against Ms. Stott's certification, the

SCDE has made multiple attempts to contact Ms. Stott. This mail was consistently returned until Ms. Stott's agent signed for the final letter on September 11, 2019. Ms. Stott did not request a hearing and is now in default.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Stott'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. Stott engaged in unprofessional conduct by reporting to work under the influence of an illegal substance. Accordingly, the evidence presented supports the State Board's determination that just cause exists to suspend the educator certificate of Sheri Folk Stott, Educator Certificate 266380, for a period of one year, commencing on October 8, 2019, and ending on October 6, 2020.

If Ms. Stott 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. Stott's Educator Certificate 266380 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
October 8, 2019