

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of Suspension)
)
of the Educator Certificate of)
)
Ryan Theron Jackson,)
)
Certificate 290108)
_____)

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered the matter on January 8, 2019. On November 29, 2018, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent a notice letter to Mr. Jackson, informing him that the State Board would meet to make a determination regarding the possible disciplinary action of his educator certificate, by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. Mr. Jackson received the certified mail on December 4, 2018, as evidenced by the signed postal receipt. Mr. Jackson has not requested a hearing in this matter and is now in default. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Mr. Jackson's educator certificate for a period of sixteen months, commencing on January 8, 2019, and ending on May 7, 2020.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Jackson holds a valid South Carolina initial educator certificate and has over twelve years of teaching experience. Mr. Jackson began employment as a special education teacher at Battery Creek High School (School) with the Beaufort County School District (District) in 2018.

On September 17, 2018, the SCDE learned that Mr. Jackson's teaching certification was suspended in Georgia. The SCDE contacted authorities in Georgia and learned that Mr. Jackson's Georgia certification was placed on a two-year suspension. Part of the suspension was retroactive, from November 18, 2017, to November 17, 2019. Mr. Jackson did not inform his supervisors at the District of the suspension, nor did he inform SCDE certification staff.

After being informed of the Georgia suspension, the District terminated Mr. Jackson on September 26, 2018. The SCDE has reviewed the documentation and wishes to honor the Georgia suspension, which will end on November 17, 2019. In addition to the Georgia suspension, Mr. Jackson will receive a six-month suspension for his failure to disclose the

Georgia investigation and suspension to the District on the employment application, during employment interviews, or after the Georgia consent order became final on September 13, 2018.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Mr. Jackson's educator certificate for a period of sixteen months, commencing on January 8, 2019, and ending on May 7, 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 Mr. Jackson engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of the suspension of his Georgia educator certification, as well as his failure to disclose the Georgia suspension to his employer. Accordingly, the evidence presented supports the State Board's determination that just cause exists to suspend the educator certificate of Ryan Theron Jackson, Educator Certificate 290108, for a period of sixteen months, commencing on January 8, 2019, and ending on May 7, 2020.

If Mr. Jackson wishes to have his educator certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, he shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Services and shall meet all certification requirements in effect at the time he requests reinstatement. Mr. Jackson shall also submit documentation for the completion of a SCDE approved course in ethics and boundary training and be responsible for the payment of the applicable reinstatement fee. The suspension of Mr. Jackson's Educator Certificate 290108 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: 

Del-Gratia Jones, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
January 8, 2019