

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the

Disciplinary Action of the

Educator Certificate of

Robert B. Moore

Certificate 205291

ORDER OF PERMANENT REVOCATION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 13, 2019. On May 21, 2019, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Robert B. Moore a notice via regular and certified mail of his right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of his South Carolina educator certificate. The SCDE sent Mr. Moore a final notice on June 25, 2019. Public records were utilized to find Mr. Moore's address after the SCDE received notice Mr. Moore failed to update the information used for his educator certification. The SCDE has verified Mr. Moore's address. Under the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure 5(b), Mr. Moore has been given fair notice of constitutional due process. Mr. Moore 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. Moore's educator certificate 205291, effective August 13, 2019.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Moore holds a valid South Carolina teaching certificate and has over seventeen years of educator experience. Mr. Moore was employed by the Charleston County School District (District) as visual arts instructor at the Charleston County School of the Arts (School).

Mr. Moore was placed on administrative leave on September 28, 2018, after allegations arose that he engaged in an inappropriate relationship with a student during the 2008-09 school year. Phone records from the time period in question show an extreme number of calls and texts between Mr. Moore and the student. The District was

further able to locate a witness that corroborated the reported allegations of an inappropriate relationship with the student. At the time of the relationship, sexual battery with a student 16 years or older was not a crime in South Carolina.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board finds just cause exists to permanently revoke Mr. Moore's educator certificate 205291, effective August 13, 2019.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2017); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2017). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2017); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2017). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Mr. Moore engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of an inappropriate relationship with a student.

Accordingly, the State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE supports its decision that just cause exists to permanently revoke educator certificate 205291, issued in the name of Robert B. Moore, effective August 13, 2019. The permanent revocation of Mr. Moore's educator certificate 205291 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

s/Del-Gratia Jones

Del-Gratia Jones, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
August 13, 2019