

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Floyd Edmund White
Certificate 1257924

ORDER OF PERMANENT REVOCATION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 13, 2019. On December 7, 2018, the Chair of the State Board summarily suspended Mr. White's South Carolina educator certificate. On December 7, 2018, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent the summary suspension order and a notice letter to Mr. White regarding the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate. The SCDE subsequently sent Mr. White a second notice letter on February 27, 2019. After Mr. White failed to respond to either of the notice letters, the SCDE sent Mr. White a final notice letter on May 2, 2019. The SCDE utilized Mr. White's address from the Certification Portal System and a search of public records. The SCDE has verified Mr. White's address. Under the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure 5(b), Mr. White has been given fair notice of constitutional due process. Mr. White 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. White's educator certificate 257924, effective August 13, 2019.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. White holds a suspended South Carolina educator certificate and has over six years of teaching experience. Mr. White was employed by School District Five of Lexington/Richland Counties (District) as an assistant principal at Dutch Fork High School (School). On November 29, 2018, Mr. White was placed on administrative leave after the District learned that, following the execution of a search warrant at Mr. White's home, he was arrested for possession with intent to distribute cocaine, possession with intent to distribute marijuana, and two misdemeanor counts of possession of a controlled substance. On December 18, 2018, Mr. White resigned his employment with the District effective December 20, 2018. Mr. White was later arrested for the additional charges of criminal solicitation of a minor, four counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor, one misdemeanor count of distribution of marijuana to persons under

eighteen, and distribution of a controlled substance within proximity of a school. These charges stemmed from a series of inappropriate and illegal actions by Mr. White where he fixed absences for students which allowed them to be habitually truant, solicited a student on six different occasions through the application Snapchat, distributed marijuana to a minor on multiple occasions, and ingesting cocaine with a subordinate on school grounds.

Mr. White's criminal charges are still pending. Mr. White 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. White's educator certificate 257924, effective August 13, 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, crime against the law of this State or the United States, evident unfitness for position for which employed, and sale or possession of narcotics." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2016). The State Board finds that Mr. White engaged in unprofessional conduct, evident unfitness for position for which employed, crime against the law of this State or the United States, and sale or possession of narcotics, due to the allegations of drug possession, drug distribution, and inappropriate conduct towards minor students.

The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE supports its decision that just cause exists to permanently revoke educator certificate 257924, issued in the name of Floyd Edmund White, effective August 13, 2019. The permanent revocation of Mr. White's educator certificate 257924 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