

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the	)	
	)	
Educator Certificate of	)	CONSENT ORDER OF
	)	SUSPENSION
Raymond Davis	)	
	)	
<u>Educator Certificate 189379</u>	)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on June 11, 2019. On April 30, 2019, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, to Raymond Davis concerning the pending action against his educator certificate 189379. After Mr. Davis received the notice, he contacted the SCDE and agreed he would waive his right to a hearing and would enter into this Consent Order of Suspension of his educator certificate 189379 for a period of one year. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Mr. Davis' educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on June 11, 2019, and ending on June 9, 2020.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Davis holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate. He has over twenty years of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Mr. Davis was employed by Lexington School District Three (District) as a teacher at Batesburg-Leesville Middle School (School) as a teacher and coach.

On September 19, 2018, Mr. Davis indicated to a member of the School technical staff that he was interested in obtaining a computer. The technical staff employee advised Mr. Davis of several low cost ways to obtain a computer. Mr. Davis was later told he would likely be able to sign out a District laptop without an issue; however, Mr. Davis did not want to sign a laptop out. Mr. Davis then inquired about one of the laptops in the computer lab's electronic waste dumpster, but was told the District did not keep an inventory of those items and that it would be better to obtain an official device through the appropriate channels. Mr. Davis subsequently asked a School custodian to get him a computer, and the custodian retrieved a laptop computer from the electronic waste dumpster lab. Mr. Davis

Raymond Davis 189379

s/RD
Initial

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then left the School with the computer. The District subsequently instituted an investigation into the matter, which culminated in the parties entering into a Settlement Agreement and General Release where Mr. Davis resigned for purposes of retirement. When asked by District personnel about the laptop, Mr. Davis promptly returned it. Mr. Davis acknowledges he should not have taken the computer home without following the appropriate procedures and completing the required documentation; however, he maintains that he did not intend to permanently deprive the District of the laptop.

Mr. Davis has agreed to waive his right to a hearing and to resolve this disciplinary matter by entering into an alternate resolution to the action against his educator certificate. Mr. Davis agreed that his educator's certificate will be suspended for a period of one year. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension with the terms set forth above.

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. Davis took District property from the School without following the required procedure. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Mr. Davis' educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on June 11, 2019, and ending on June 9, 2020.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Raymond Davis, certificate 189379, is suspended for a period of one year, commencing on June 11, 2019, and ending on June 9, 2020.

If Mr. Davis wishes to have his certificate reinstated at the conclusion of the period of suspension, he shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Services. Mr. Davis shall be responsible for meeting all certification requirements in effect at the time he requests reinstatement and for the payment of any applicable reinstatement fees. The suspension of Mr. Davis' educator certificate shall be reported to the NASDTEC

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s/RD
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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
June 11, 2019

I, Raymond Davis, SC Educator Certificate 189379, understand there has been an investigation concerning alleged violations of the laws and regulations governing the practice of educator certificate holders and that I have waived my right to a hearing in this matter. I understand the terms set forth in this Consent Order of Suspension are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. I agree to the terms of this Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board for approval on June 11, 2019. I also agree to not work in any certified capacity at a South Carolina public school during the term of my suspension. I understand the term 'public school' includes any public charter school. I understand this Consent Order will not become effective until approved by the State Board and, if not approved, it shall not constitute an admission against interest in this proceeding or prejudice the right of the State Board to adjudicate this matter. If approved by the State Board, I give the SCDE permission to use my electronic signature in the style of "/S/ name" for required website publication.

s/Raymond Davis
Raymond Davis

5/9/19
Date