

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension of)
)
the Educator Certificate of)
)
Brian Lee Ringer)
)
Certificate 248985)
_____)

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on March 12, 2019. On November 16, 2018, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Brian Lee Ringer a notice of his right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate 248985 by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. The SCDE utilized Mr. Ringer's address from the Certification Portal System and a search of public records. Mr. Ringer declined to sign for the notice letters sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. On January 23, 2019, the SCDE informed Mr. Ringer via regular and certified mail that the State Board would meet on March 12, 2019, to consider the circumstances surrounding his alleged unprofessional conduct as reported by York County School District Three (District). The SCDE has verified Mr. Ringer's address. Under the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure 5(b), Mr. Ringer has been given fair notice of constitutional due process. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspended Mr. Ringer's educator certificate for a period of two years commencing on March 12, 2019 and ending on March 11, 2021.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Ringer holds a professional educator certificate and has over eight years of teaching experience. Mr. Ringer was employed by the District as a social studies teacher at Dutchman Creek Middle School (School).

On October 30, 2019, Mr. Ringer resigned from the District after he was placed on administrative leave following his second arrest for criminal domestic violence, 2nd degree. At the time of his arrest on October 9, 2018, Mr. Ringer was in violation of a protection

order. Further, the assault occurred in the presence of a minor child. Mr. Ringer pled guilty to the misdemeanor criminal charge. However, the SCDE received information indicating Mr. Ringer continued to violate the conditions of his probation. District files revealed Mr. Ringer received multiple past reprimands for presenting an aggressive demeanor in the community and in the classroom.

On January 23, 2019, the SCDE sent Mr. Ringer a final notice of his right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible disciplinary action of his South Carolina educator certificate 248985 by regular mail. Mr. Ringer did not request a hearing and is now in default. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspended Mr. Ringer's educator certificate for a period of two years commencing on March 12, 2019, and ending on March 11, 2021.

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 (2004); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct, crime against the law of this state, and evident unfitness for position for which employed. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE demonstrates that Mr. Ringer engaged in unprofessional conduct, crime against the law of this state, and unfitness for position for which he was employed due to his guilty plea on the charge of criminal domestic violence, 2nd degree. The State Board finds that the information presented supports its conclusion that just cause exists to suspend the educator certificate of Brian Lee Ringer on the grounds of unprofessional conduct for a period of two years commencing on March 12, 2019, and ending on March 11, 2021.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Brian Lee Ringer, certificate 248985, is suspended for a period of two years commencing on March 12, 2019, and ending on March 11, 2021. If Mr. Ringer 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. Ringer 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. Ringer's educator

certificate 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
March 12, 2019