

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation)
)
of the Educator Certificate of)
)
Robert Eugene Valbert,)
)
Certificate 905822)
_____)

**ORDER OF
PERMANENT REVOCATION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on March 12, 2019. On December 7, 2018, the Chair of the State Board summarily suspended Mr. Valbert'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. Valbert regarding the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate. Mr. Valbert was given final notice of the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certification on February 1, 2019. Mr. Dailey received the notice on February 7, 2019, as evidence by the signed postal receipt, and did not request a hearing or contest the summary suspension order. Mr. Valbert 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. Valbert's educator certificate 905822, effective March 12, 2019.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Valbert holds a suspended South Carolina educator certificate and has over one year of teaching experience. Mr. Valbert was employed by the Colleton County School District (District) at the time of his summary suspension and served as a health science teacher at Colleton High School (School). He was placed on administrative leave on November 26, 2018. Mr. Valbert was terminated from the District on January 15, 2019.

On November 21, 2018, School administration was notified of allegations Mr. Valbert had engaged in inappropriate conduct with a student. At the time of the report, the School was out for Thanksgiving break. When staff returned from the break, Mr. Valbert was placed on administrative leave. Both the District and local law enforcement proceeded with an investigation. During the investigation, it was alleged Mr. Valbert fondled the genitals of a young male under the pretense of performing a medical exam.

On December 5, 2018, Mr. Valbert was arrested and charged with two felony counts of criminal sexual conduct with a minor, S.C. Code Ann. §16-03-655(b)(2) (2017). In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(C) (2017) and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the SCDE requested that the Chair of the State Board summarily suspend Mr. Valbert's educator certificate as a result of his arrest. On December 7, 2018, the Chair of the State Board summarily suspended Mr. Valbert's educator certificate.

Mr. Valbert's criminal charges are still pending. Mr. Valbert 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. Valbert's educator certificate 905822, effective March 12, 2019.

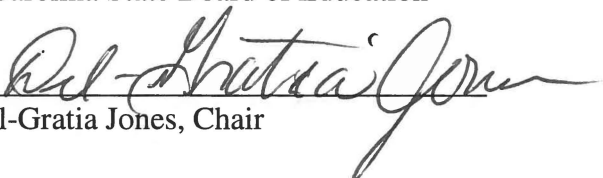
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"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, conduct involving moral turpitude, immorality, and evident unfitness for position for which employed." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2016). The State Board finds that Mr. Valbert engaged in unprofessional conduct, conduct involving moral turpitude, immorality, and evident unfitness for position for which employed, due to the allegations of inappropriate conduct with a minor.

The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE supports its decision that just cause exists to permanently revoke educator certificate 905822, issued in the name of Robert Eugene Valbert, effective March 12, 2019. The permanent revocation of Mr. Valbert's educator certificate 905822 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