

**BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

In the Matter of the Suspension )  
 )  
of the Educator Certificate of ) **ORDER OF SUSPENSION**  
 )  
Angela H. Turner, ) **(BREACH OF CONTRACT)**  
 )  
Certificate 186326 )

**SUMMARY OF THE CASE**

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on January 13, 2016. On December 16, 2014, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) attempted to serve Angela H. Turner a notice of her right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate, by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. After several unsuccessful attempts to serve Ms. Turner, the Greenville County Sheriff's Office personally served her with notice on October 2, 2015. Ms. Turner did not request a hearing in a timely manner in this matter and is in default.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Turner's educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on January 13, 2016, and ending on January 12, 2017.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

This case concerns a formal complaint by the Greenville County School District (District) recommending the suspension of the educator certificate of Angela H. Turner for breach of contract. The State Board has jurisdiction in this matter, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (Rev. 2004) and S.C. Code Ann § 59-25-530 (Rev. 2004).

Ms. Turner holds a valid South Carolina educator certificate and has over sixteen years of teaching experience. On April 21, 2014, Ms. Turner signed a Contractual Agreement with the District to serve as a special education teacher for the 2014-2015 school year. Ms. Turner submitted a letter of resignation on October 8, 2014, effective immediately. On October 9, 2014, the District Director of Professional Employment informed Ms. Turner that her resignation did not meet the guidelines provided in Board Policy GBO and that Ms. Turner engaged in unprofessional conduct by failing to comply with the provisions of her contract without having

been duly released from her contract. The District also informed Ms. Turner that a formal complaint would be filed with the State Board of Education.

On October 28, 2014, the District Board of Trustees found that Ms. Turner failed to comply with the provisions of her contract without the written consent of the District Board of Trustees and that her behavior constituted a breach of her employment contract with the District. The District voted to report Ms. Turner's breach of contract to SCDE and the State Board. On November 17, 2014, the District reported this matter to SCDE requesting that the State Board suspend Ms. Turner's educator certificate.

On December 16, 2014, the SCDE attempted to serve Ms. Turner with notice of her right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate, by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. After several unsuccessful attempts to serve Ms. Turner, the Greenville County Sheriff's Office personally served her with notice on October 2, 2015. Ms. Turner did not request a hearing in a timely manner in this matter and is in default.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Turner's educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on January 13, 2016, and ending on January 12, 2017.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (Rev. 2004). Just cause includes, *inter alia*, "unprofessional conduct" and "wilful violation of the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (3) and (4) (Rev. 2004). Pursuant to 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2) and (14) (2011), the State Board of Education has the legal authority, *inter alia*, to suspend a certificate for "wilful neglect of duty" and "failure to comply with the provisions of a contract without the written consent of the local school board." The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Ms. Turner breached her contract and engaged in unprofessional conduct, wilfully neglected her duty, and failed to comply with the provisions of her contract without the written consent of the Greenville County School District. The evidence presented further supports the State Board's determination that just cause exists to suspend the educator certificate of Angela H. Turner, certificate 186326, for a period of one year,

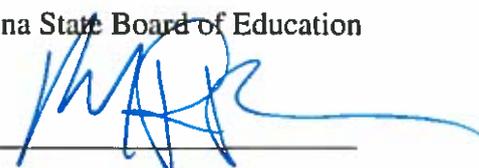
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commencing on January 13, 2016, and ending on January 12, 2017. If Ms. Turner wishes to have her educator certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, she shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Services, and shall meet all certification requirements in effect at the time she requests reinstatement. Ms. Turner shall also pay the applicable reinstatement fee. The suspension of Ms. Turner's educator certificate 186326 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: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Michael R. Brennan, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

January 13, 2016