

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension)
)
or Revocation of the) **ORDER OF**
)
Educator Certificate of) **SUSPENSION**
)
Kevin David Lipke)
)
Certificate 267171)
_____)

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 12, 2015. On May 14, 2015, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Kevin David Lipke a notice of his right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate 267171 by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. Mr. Lipke received the notice on May 27, 2015, as evidenced by the signed postal receipt bearing his signature. Mr. Lipke did not request a hearing in this matter and is in default. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Mr. Lipke’s educator certificate for a period of four years and eight months to coincide with the remainder of the five year suspension set forth in the Illinois Consent Order of Suspension issued by the Illinois Department of Education State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board on April 10, 2015. The suspension of Mr. Lipke’s South Carolina educator certificate shall commence on August 12, 2015, and end on April 10, 2020, provided Mr. Lipke complies with the terms of the Illinois Consent Order of Suspension and has had his Illinois license reinstated at the time he requests reinstatement of his South Carolina educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Lipke holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over seventeen years of teaching experience in Illinois. Mr. Lipke obtained his South Carolina educator certificate by reciprocity from the State of Illinois effective July 1,

2013. Mr. Lipke has never served as an educator in a South Carolina public school district. On June 9, 2014, the Illinois Department of Education State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board served Mr. Lipke with a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing and a Statement of Charges with respect to his Illinois professional educator license. The Statement of Charges contained material allegations that Mr. Lipke had used his position as principal and superintendent to form inappropriate relationships with young male students which violated professional boundaries and those of healthy adult/child relationships.

On April 10, 2015, Mr. Lipke entered into the Illinois Consent Order of Suspension in which he agreed to the suspension of his Illinois professional educator license for a period of five years beginning April 10, 2015. Mr. Lipke also agreed, as a prerequisite to reinstatement of his Illinois professional educator license, to complete thirty (30) hours of counseling and thirty (30) hours of professional development specifically concerning (a) proper workplace boundaries, and/or (b) impulse control, and/or (c) overall mental health, separate and apart from any family counseling. Mr. Lipke is responsible to provide proof of completion of the thirty (30) hours of counseling, thirty (30) hours of professional development, and must comply with all other statutory and regulatory requirements for reinstatement of his license. Mr. Lipke neither admitted nor denied in engaging in the conduct alleged in the Statement of Charges and entered into the Illinois Consent Order of Suspension for the sole purpose of avoiding the cost and inconvenience of litigation.

On April 24, 2015, the Illinois State Board of Education reported the suspension of Mr. Lipke's Illinois professional educator license to the South Carolina Department of Education. On May 14, 2015, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Mr. Lipke a notice of his right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate 267171 by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. Mr. Lipke received the notice on May 27, 2015, as evidenced by the signed postal receipt. Mr. Lipke did not request a hearing in this matter and is in default.

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 (Rev. 2004); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (Rev. 2004). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct and immorality. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (Rev. 2004); 2 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2011). The State Board takes judicial notice of the Illinois Consent Order of Suspension and accepts the findings of this order as to content and with regard to the term of suspension. The State Board finds that the Illinois Consent Order of Suspension instituting a five year suspension of Mr. Lipke’s professional educator license is legally valid and currently in effect. The State Board finds that the evidence presented supports its conclusion that just cause exists to suspend the educator certificate of Kevin David Lipke on the grounds of unprofessional conduct and immorality for a period of approximately four years and eight months to run concurrent with the Illinois Consent Order of Suspension. The suspension of Mr. Lipke’s South Carolina educator certificate shall commence on August 12, 2015, and end on April 10, 2020, provided Mr. Lipke complies with the terms of the Illinois Consent Order of Suspension and has had his Illinois professional educator license reinstated when he requests reinstatement of his South Carolina educator certificate. .

If Mr. Lipke wishes to have his South Carolina educator certificate reinstated at the conclusion of the period of suspension, he shall make a written request to the SCDE’s Office of Educator Services and provide documentation that he has complied with all terms and conditions of the Illinois Consent Order of Suspension and that his Illinois professional educator license has been reinstated. Mr. Lipke shall also be responsible for meeting all certification requirements in effect at the time he requests reinstatement and for the payment of any applicable reinstatement fees.

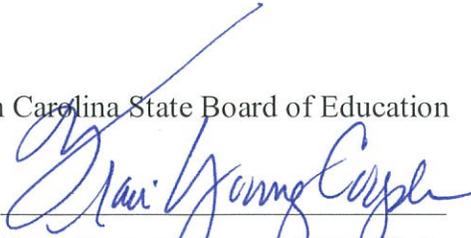
The suspension of Kevin David Lipke’s South Carolina educator certificate shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

Lipke, Kevin David - Certificate 267171
Order of Suspension
August 12, 2015
Page 4

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By:



Traci Young Cooper, Ed.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

August 12, 2015