

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension)
)
or Revocation of the)
)
Educator Certificate of)
)
Adam Thomas Sherrill)
)
Certificate 209488)
_____)

**ORDER OF
SUSPENSION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on September 9, 2015. On July 28, 2015, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Adam Thomas Sherrill a notice of his right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate 209488 by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. Mr. Sherrill received the notice on August 10, 2015, as evidenced by postal verification. Mr. Sherrill did not request a hearing in this matter and is in default. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspended Mr. Sherrill’s educator certificate for a period of two years commencing on September 9, 2015, and ending on September 8, 2017.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Sherrill holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over twelve years of teaching experience. Mr. Sherrill had been employed by the Charleston County School District (District) since 2002 as a teacher at Hunley Park Elementary School (School), until his resignation on May 4, 2015.

Mr. Sherrill’s resignation followed an incident on March 12, 2015, involving allegations that Mr. Sherrill placed his hands on a student’s face and pushed him backwards in response to the student’s misbehavior. On the same date, surveillance video shows Mr. Sherrill using his foot to move a student who is sitting in the hall and then kicking the student’s back pack toward the student. Student interviews included accounts of Mr. Sherrill losing his temper and throwing items in the classroom.

The District placed Mr. Sherrill on administrative leave on March 13, 2015. On May 4, 2015, Mr. Sherrill resigned from his position with the District.

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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. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (Rev. 2004); 2 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2011). The State Board finds that the evidence presented, which demonstrates that Mr. Sherrill engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of his aggressive behavior towards students and his inappropriate actions while disciplining students. The State Board finds that the information presented supports its conclusion that just cause exists to suspend the educator certificate of Adam Thomas Sherrill on the grounds of unprofessional conduct for a period of two years commencing on September 9, 2015, and ending on November 10, 2017.

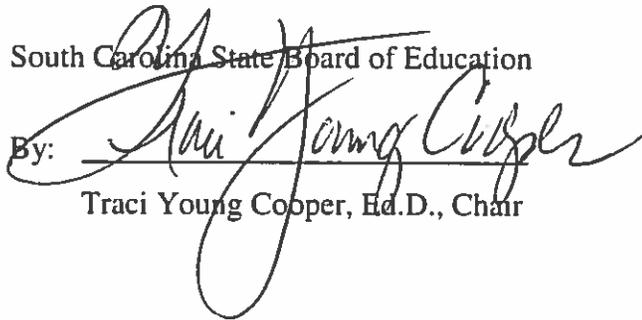
Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Adam Thomas Sherrill, certificate 209488, is suspended for a period of two years commencing on September 9, 2015 and ending on September 8, 2017. If Mr. Sherrill wishes to have his certificate reinstated at the conclusion of the period of suspension, he shall make a written request to the SCDE’s Office of Educator Services. He 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. Sherrill’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.

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AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: 

Traci Young Cooper, Ed.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
September 9, 2015