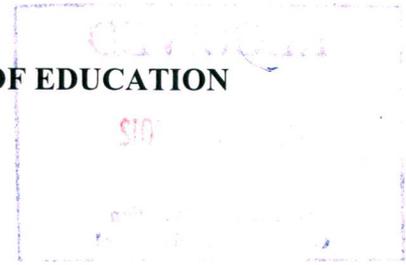


BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



In the Matter of the Revocation)
)
and Voluntary Surrender of the)
)
Educator Certificate of)
)
Karaleigh H. Holmes,)
)
Certificate 139634)
_____)

CONSENT ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on July 11, 2012. On October 13, 2011, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Karaleigh H. Holmes a notice of her right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina educator certificate 139634 by regular and certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery. On October 29, 2011, Ms. Holmes received the notice as evidenced by a postal receipt bearing her signature. On October 31, 2011, counsel for Ms. Holmes contacted the SCDE and informed the SCDE that Ms. Holmes desired to have a hearing. On January 24, 2012, counsel for Ms. Holmes contacted the SCDE and informed the SCDE that Ms. Holmes desired to waive her right to a hearing and desired to pursue an alternative resolution to this matter. Counsel for Ms. Holmes stated that Ms. Holmes had agreed to the suspension of her educator certificate for a period of three years and the terms of this Consent Order of Suspension. After reviewing the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Holmes' certificate for a period of three years, commencing on July 11, 2012 and ending on July 10, 2015, subject to the terms specified herein.

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5/22/2012
Date

Karaleigh
H. Holmes
139634

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Holmes holds a valid South Carolina teaching certificate and has over twenty-six years of teaching experience. Ms. Holmes had been employed by the Edgefield County School District (District) as a special education teacher, until the District terminated her employment on July 15, 2011, following a District investigation

into allegations which revealed that Ms. Holmes had falsified documents pertaining to homebound services provided for a special needs student. The District investigation also revealed that Ms. Holmes violated school board policy by submitting time sheets that indicated Ms. Holmes worked more hours than she actually worked in homebound instruction and forged at least the initials of the parents of the student who was receiving homebound instruction. The school board instructed Ms. Holmes to repay \$5,543.75 on or before August 31, 2011, but Ms. Holmes did not repay the money. Ms. Holmes has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board.

On October 13, 2011, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Karaleigh H. Holmes a notice of her right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina educator certificate 139634 by regular and certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery. On October 29, 2011, Ms. Holmes received the notice as evidenced by a postal receipt bearing her signature. On October 31, 2011, counsel for Ms. Holmes contacted the SCDE and informed the SCDE that Ms. Holmes desired to have a hearing. On January 24, 2012, counsel for Ms. Holmes contacted the SCDE and informed the SCDE that Ms. Holmes desired to waive her right to a hearing and desired to pursue an alternative resolution to this matter. Counsel for Ms. Holmes stated that Ms. Holmes had agreed to the suspension of her educator certificate for a period of three years and that she will never be employed in a homebound teaching position in the future. Ms. Holmes also agreed to take twelve hours of remedial classes in ethics or related courses. After reviewing the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Holmes' certificate for a period of three years, commencing on July 11, 2012 and ending on July 10, 2015, subject to the terms specified herein.

Ms. Holmes understands that the terms set forth herein are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. During the period of suspension, Ms. Holmes shall not volunteer or be employed in any capacity, in any South Carolina school district. She also acknowledges that the suspension of her educator certificate will be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse with the reasons stated as "unprofessional conduct, dishonesty, and evident unfitness for position for which employed."

Accepted
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<u>5/22/2012</u>
Date
Karaleigh H. Holmes 139634

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The South Carolina State Board of Education may, for just cause, either 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, dishonesty, and evident unfitness for position for which employed. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2011). The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE demonstrates that Ms. Holmes engaged in unprofessional conduct and dishonesty, and also demonstrated an evident unfitness for the position for which she was employed as a result of her falsifying documents pertaining to homebound services provided for a special needs student and that just cause exists to suspend Ms. Holmes' educator certificate for a period of three years, commencing on July 11, 2012 and ending on July 10, 2015. During the period of suspension, Ms. Holmes shall not volunteer or be employed in any capacity, in any South Carolina school district. Ms. Holmes shall not be employed in any public school district in the State of South Carolina in a homebound teaching position at any time in the future. The suspension of Ms. Holmes' educator certificate 139634 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order with the reasons stated as "unprofessional conduct, dishonesty, and evident unfitness for position for which employed."

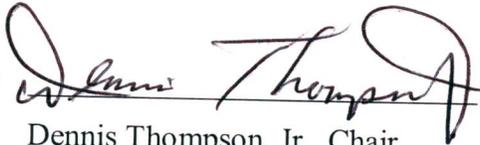
If Ms. Holmes wishes to have her educator certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, she must make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Certification, Recruitment and Preparation. Ms. Holmes agrees that she shall be responsible for providing the SCDE with documentation that she has successfully completed twelve hours of remedial courses in ethics or related courses and shall meet all current certification requirements. Ms. Holmes will also be responsible for paying a reinstatement fee.

Accepted
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5/22/2012
Date

Karaleigh
H. Holmes
139634

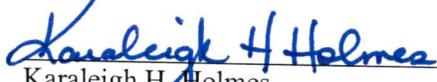
AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: 
Dennis Thompson, Jr., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
July 11, 2012

I, Karaleigh H. Holmes, S.C. Educator Certificate 139634, understand there has been an investigation concerning alleged violations of the laws and regulations governing the practice of education certificate holders and that I have waived my right to a hearing in this matter. I hereby freely, knowingly and voluntarily surrender my educator certificate to the South Carolina State Board of Education. I agree that during the period of suspension, I will not serve as a volunteer in any type of educator role or be employed as an educator, paraprofessional, aide, substitute teacher, coach, or in any other position in a public school district in the State of South Carolina. I further agree that I will never be employed in any public school district in the State of South Carolina as a homebound teacher. I agree to the proposed Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of four pages, and understand that this Order will be presented for approval to the South Carolina State Board of Education on Wednesday, July 11, 2012.


Karaleigh H. Holmes

5/22/2012
Date