

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation or)
Suspension of the Educator Certificate of)
Chris John Petrasek,)
Certificate 233825)
_____)

**ORDER OF
SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The Chair of the South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on December 21, 2011. In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2004), § 59-5-10 (2004), and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) requested that the Chair of the State Board summarily suspend the educator certificate of Chris John Petrasek, certificate 233825, as a result of his being arrested on November 30, 2011, in the County of York, South Carolina, and being charged with Assault and Battery, third degree, S.C. Code Ann. § 16-3-600 (E)(2) (Supp. 2010). The SCDE received official documentation of Mr. Petrasek’s arrest from the County of York on December 15, 2011. The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of these allegations of misconduct, Mr. Petrasek may pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of students that may be under his instruction and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Mr. Petrasek’s educator certificate shall be summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Mr. Petrasek of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Petrasek holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate and has five years of teaching experience. Mr. Petrasek was employed by the York County School District Two (District) as a math teacher at Oakridge Middle School and a wrestling coach. Mr. Petrasek resigned from the District, effective January 1, 2012. On November 30, 2011, Mr. Petrasek was arrested in the County of York, South Carolina and was charged with Assault and Battery, third degree. It is alleged that Ms. Petrasek committed the offense between September 2011 and November 2011, by striking students on their buttocks against their will, causing pain and

embarrassment as a punishment for misbehaving in class. The Chair of the State Board finds that due to the serious nature of these allegations, Mr. Petrasek may pose a threat to the safety and welfare of students that may be under his instruction and that emergency action is required to summarily suspend Mr. Petrasek's educator certificate.

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 (2004). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct, immorality, any conduct involving moral turpitude, crime against the law of this State, and evident unfitness for position for which employed. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (Supp. 2010). In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2004), "If the agency finds that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, summary suspension of a license may be ordered pending proceedings for revocation or other action." Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann § 59-5-10 (2004) and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the Chair of the State Board finds that as a result of the allegations of Mr. Petrasek's unprofessional conduct, evident unfitness for position for which employed and his arrest for Assault and Battery, third degree, there is reason to believe that Mr. Petrasek may pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of students and that emergency action is required. Accordingly, the educator certificate of Chris John Petrasek, certificate 233825, is summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Mr. Petrasek of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education



By: _____

Dennis Thompson, Jr., Chair