

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation or)
Suspension of the Educator Certificate of)
Deanna M. Robert,)
Certificate 220958)

**ORDER OF
SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The Chair of the South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on February 16, 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 Deanna M. Robert, certificate 220958, as a result of her being arrested on February 4, 2011, in Oconee County, South Carolina, and being charged with two counts of Sexual Battery With a Student, S.C. Code Ann. § 16-3-755(B) (Supp. 2010). The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of these allegations of misconduct, Ms. Robert may pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of students that may be under her instruction and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Ms. Robert'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 Ms. Robert of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Robert holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate and has over fifteen years of teaching experience. Ms. Robert was employed by the Oconee County School District (District) as a science teacher at Tamasee-Salem Middle/High School. Ms. Robert resigned from her employment with the District, effective February 8, 2011, following a report of allegations of Ms. Robert's unprofessional conduct with a student. On February 4, 2011, Ms. Robert was arrested in Oconee County, South Carolina, and charged with two counts of Sexual Battery With a Student, in violation of S.C. Code Ann. § 16-3-755(B) (Supp. 2010). It is alleged that between November 1, 2010, and January 1, 2011, Ms. Robert committed the offense of Sexual Battery With a Student, by having sexual intercourse with a sixteen-year-old male student

in her classroom at Tamasee-Salem Middle/High School. The Chair of the State Board finds that due to the serious nature of these allegations, Ms. Robert may pose a threat to the safety and welfare of students that may be under her instruction and that emergency action is required to summarily suspend Ms. Robert'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 Ms. Robert's unprofessional conduct, immorality, conduct involving moral turpitude, evident unfitness for position for which employed and her arrest on two counts of Sexual Battery With a Student, there is reason to believe that Ms. Robert may pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of students that may be under her instruction and that emergency action is required. Accordingly, the educator certificate of Deanna M. Robert, certificate 220958, 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 Ms. Robert of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

Gerrita Postlewait

By: _____

Gerrita Postlewait, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

February 16, 2011