

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation)
)
of the Educator Certificate of)
)
Deanna M. Robert)
)
Certificate 220958)
_____)

**ORDER OF PERMANENT
REVOCATION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on March 14, 2012. On February 4, 2011, Ms. Robert was arrested in Oconee County, South Carolina, and charged with two counts of Sexual Battery with a Student. On February 16, 2011, the Chair of the State Board summarily suspended Ms. Robert's educator certificate. On February 17, 2011, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent the summary suspension order and a notice letter to Ms. Robert regarding the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina Educator Certificate. On April 8, 2011, Ms. Robert received the notice as evidenced by a signed postal receipt bearing the signature of a person of age and discretion living in the household. Ms. Robert did not request a hearing and is in default.

On September 22, 2011, Ms. Robert pled guilty to two counts of Sexual Battery with a Student, no aggravated force or coercion. The court sentenced Ms. Robert to five years of probation. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to permanently revoke Ms. Robert's educator certificate 220958, effective March 14, 2012.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Robert holds a suspended professional South Carolina educator certificate and has fifteen years of teaching experience. She has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Ms. Robert had been employed by the Oconee County School District (District) as a science teacher at Tamasee-Salem Middle/High School (School). Ms. Robert resigned from her employment with the District, effective February 7, 2011, following a report that she had engaged in inappropriate conduct towards students and had inappropriate communications with students.

On February 4, 2011, Ms. Robert was arrested in Oconee County 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 was alleged that between the months of November 1, 2010, through 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 Tamassee-Salem Middle/High School.

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 Chair of the State Board summarily suspended Ms. Robert's educator certificate as a result of her arrest. On February 17, 2011, the SCDE sent the summary suspension order and a notice letter to Ms. Robert regarding the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina Educator Certificate. On April 8, 2011, Ms. Robert received the notice as evidenced by a signed postal receipt bearing the signature of a person of age and discretion living in the household. Ms. Robert did not request a hearing and is in default.

On September 22, 2011, Ms. Robert pled guilty to two counts of Sexual Battery with a Student, no aggravated force or coercion. The court sentenced Ms. Robert to five years of probation and ordered that Ms. Robert have no contact with the victim.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to permanently revoke Ms. Robert's educator certificate 220958, effective March 14, 2012.

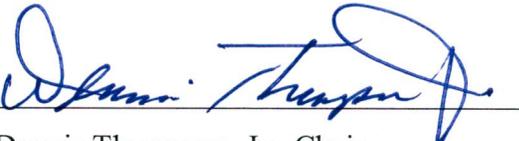
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The State Board 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, crime against the law of this State, immorality, 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. 2011). The State Board finds that Ms. Robert engaged in unprofessional conduct and immorality, committed crimes against the law of this state, and demonstrated evident unfitness for position for which employed, as a result of her conduct with male students and her guilty plea on September 22, 2011, to two counts of Sexual Battery with a Student, no aggravated force of coercion.

The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE supports its decision that just cause exists to permanently revoke the educator certificate of Deanna M. Robert, certificate 220958. The permanent revocation of Ms. Robert's educator certificate 220958 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, immorality, crimes against the law of this State and demonstrated unfitness for position for which employed."

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: 
Dennis Thompson, Jr., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

March 14, 2012