

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension)
)
of the Educator Certificate of)
)
Katrice Ivana Singleton-Brown,)
)
Certificate 214023)
_____)

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 8, 2012. On May 3, 2012, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) notified Katrice Ivana Singleton-Brown via certified and first class mail regarding her unprofessional conduct for failure to repay her past due National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) Loan and the possible resulting suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate. Return notice of Ms. Singleton-Brown’s receipt of certified mail arrived at SCDE on May 4, 2012. Ms. Singleton-Brown did not request a hearing in this matter and is in default. Ms. Singleton-Brown has failed to make any payments since May 5, 2010, and has an outstanding balance of \$1,000.00, which is now past due. After considering the information presented by the SCDE, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Singleton-Brown’s educator certificate until receipt of full repayment of her outstanding NBPTS loan with the State of South Carolina. This loan was obtained through the Center for Teacher Education, Recruitment, Retention and Advancement (CERRA).

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Singleton-Brown holds a valid South Carolina educator certificate and has seven years of teaching experience. On April 25, 2007, Ms. Singleton-Brown signed a promissory note with the State of South Carolina to obtain a loan of \$2,500.00 to pay for the costs of applying for certification from the NBPTS. On October 15, 2009, the SCDE sent Ms. Singleton-Brown a notice of her default on the NBPTS loan and her right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate via certified and first class mail. On or

about October 16, 2009, Ms. Singleton-Brown received the notice and requested a National Board Certification Default Repayment Agreement (Agreement).

Four days later, Ms. Singleton-Brown returned the Agreement. The terms of the Agreement stated that Ms. Singleton-Brown would pay monthly installments of \$250.00 until the remaining loan balance of \$2,500.00 was paid in full. Additionally, the Agreement stated that should she fail to make any monthly payment, Ms. Singleton-Brown would be found in default of the Agreement with no right to cure and SCDE would resume proceedings for certificate suspension. Ms. Singleton-Brown made \$250.00 payments on the following dates: November 3, 2009, December 7, 2009, January 7, 2010, February 9, 2010, March 13, 2010, and May 5, 2010.

On May 3, 2012, the SCDE sent Ms. Singleton-Brown notice of unprofessional conduct for her failure to repay her NBPTS Loan and the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate via certified and regular mail. On May 4, 2012, Ms. Singleton-Brown received the notice as evidenced by a signed postal receipt bearing her signature. Ms. Singleton-Brown did not request a hearing in this matter and is now in default.

Ms. Singleton-Brown has not made any payments since May 5, 2010, and has a current outstanding balance of \$1,000.00, which is past due. After considering the information presented by the SCDE, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Singleton-Brown's certificate until she repays the full amount owed on her outstanding loan with the State of South Carolina and pays the reinstatement fee.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board may suspend the certificate of any person for unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. §§ 59-25-150 and 160 (2004). Failure to repay a National Board Certification loan is considered unprofessional conduct. The State Board finds that the SCDE has presented sufficient evidence to support its decision to suspend Katrica Ivana Singleton-Brown's educator certificate 214023 from the date of this Order until she has paid the outstanding balance of \$1,000.00.

Upon confirmation of full payment of the balance due and payment of a reinstatement fee, the SCDE's Office of Educator Certification shall reinstate Ms. Singleton-Brown's educator certificate.

Singleton-Brown, Katrica Ivana
Order of Suspension
August 8, 2012
Page 3

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: David O. Blackmon
David Blackmon, PhD, Chair-Elect

Columbia, South Carolina
August 8, 2012