BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension	)	
	)	
of the Educator Certificate of	)	**ORDER OF SUSPENSION**
	)	
Kenneth Snyder	)	**(NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION LOAN DEFAULT)**
	)	
Certificate 228637	)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on March 14, 2012. On September 20, 2010, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent a letter, both regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, to Kenneth Snyder at his last known address in Greenville, South Carolina notifying him of possible State Board action. Mr. Snyder sent a response claiming he had lost his position with Spartanburg School District Five and was homeless, living in Pennsylvania. On January 20, 2011, a corrected copy of the notice letter was sent to Mr. Snyder at his post office box address in Pennsylvania. Mr. Snyder received the letter as evidenced by the signed return receipt dated January 24, 2011. Mr. Snyder requested a hearing in this matter. On November 4, 2011, a letter signed by Karla McLawhorn Hawkins, SCDE Deputy General Counsel, was sent both regular and certified mail notifying Mr. Snyder of a hearing date of December 12, 2011. Mr. Snyder received the letter on November 22, 2011. The case was heard on December 12, 2011, by telephone. Mr. Snyder failed to appear at the hearing but sent documents that he requested be included in the record. The return address on the envelope containing the documents was for a physical address, not his post office box address.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Mr. Snyder's educator certificate until such time as the National Board Certification Loan is repaid in full.

FINDINGS OF FACT

This case concerns a formal complaint by the SCDE seeking the suspension of the educator certificate of Kenneth Snyder for failure to repay a National Board Certification Loan. The State Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004) and S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-530 (2004).

The State implemented the South Carolina National Board Loan Program in 2000 to assist qualified South Carolina teachers with the cost of the National Board Professional Teaching Standards

(NBPTS) Certification assessment fee of $2,500.00. One half of the loan amount ($1250.00) is forgiven upon NBPTS's receipt of the National Board candidate's completed application portfolio. If the candidate attains National Board certification (certify) within three years of the date of initial disbursement of funds, the full amount of the teacher's loan is forgiven. Teachers who do not certify in the three-year period are required to repay the loan. Teachers who do not submit completed portfolios are required to repay the full amount of the loan.

On April 29, 2008, Kenneth Snyder executed a Spring 2008 National Board Loan Application which was subsequently accepted. By correspondence dated February 15, 2010, and March 5, 2010, the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention and Advancement (CERRA), reminded Mr. Snyder of his obligation to repay the State his outstanding balance of $2,500.00 on or before June 1, 2010. On June 14, 2010, CERRA notified Mr. Snyder that he was in default with the State on his National Board loan; failure to repay the loan within fifteen business days could result in CERRA notifying the SCDE of the default; and action could be taken against his South Carolina educator certification. Mr. Snyder failed to repay the loan.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board finds that Mr. Snyder failed to repay his National Board Certification Loan, and that just cause exists to suspend Mr. Snyder's educator certificate until such time as the loan is repaid in full.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." Just cause includes, *inter alia,* "unprofessional conduct" and "willful violation of the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (3) and (4) (2004). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Mr. Snyder executed a National Board Loan application and has failed to repay the loan as required. The evidence presented further supports the State Board's determination that just cause exists to suspend the educator certificate of Kenneth Snyder certificate 228637, until such time as the loan is repaid in full. If Mr. Snyder wishes to have his educator certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, he shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Certification, Recruitment, and Preparation, and shall meet all certification requirements in effect at the time he requests reinstatement. Mr. Snyder shall also pay all applicable reinstatement fees. The suspension of Mr. Snyder's educator certificate 228637 shall be reported to the

NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within 30 days from the date of this order with the reason stated as "unprofessional conduct and failure to repay a National Board Certification Loan."

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: Dennis Thompson, Jr.
Dennis Thompson, Jr., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
March 14, 2012