

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Permanent)
)
Revocation of the Educator)
)
Certificate of Kinsley M. Wentzky)
)
Certificate 202486)

**ORDER OF
PERMANENT REVOCATION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on October 9, 2013. On January 9, 2013, 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 Kinsley M. Wentzky, certificate 202486, as a result of her unprofessional conduct with a student and her arrest on January 7, 2013, in Forest Acres, South Carolina, and being charged with one count of Sexual Battery of a Student. On January 9, 2013, the SCDE sent the summary suspension order and a notice letter to Ms. Wentzky regarding the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina educator certificate. The notice letter was returned unclaimed. The Columbia Police Department personally served Ms. Wentzky with the notice letter on August 23, 2013. Ms. Wentzky did not request a hearing and is in default.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to permanently revoke Ms. Wentzky’s educator certificate 202486, effective October 9, 2013.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The State Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004).

Ms. Wentzky holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate and has over nine years of teaching experience. Ms. Wentzky was employed by the Richland School District One (District) as an honors English teacher at Dreher High School (School). On January 2, 2013, the District placed Ms. Wentzky on administrative leave while the District investigated allegations of Ms. Wentzky’s violation of Board Policies and her inappropriate conduct with two or more students at the School. Ms. Wentzky violated Board Policies GBE and AR GBE-R concerning Staff Rights and Responsibilities. She also violated Policies

GBEB and AR GBEB-R concerning Staff Conduct. The District terminated Ms. Wentzky's employment on January 9, 2013. On January 22, 2013, the Board of School Commissioners of Richland One voted to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent.

On January 4, 2013, the Columbia Police Department arrested Ms. Wentzky and charged her with one count of Sexual Battery with a Student 16 or 17 years of age, no aggravated force or coercion, following an investigation into allegations that Ms. Wentzky, while employed as a teacher at the School, was involved in a sexual relationship with a male victim who was a student at the School. On January 7, 2013, the Forest Acres Police Department arrested Ms. Wentzky and charged her with one count of Sexual Battery with a Student pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 16-03-755(B) (Supp. 2012) following an investigation into allegations of Ms. Wentzky's sexual relationship with another male victim who was also a student at the School. Ms. Wentzky admitted she engaged in inappropriate relationships of a sexual nature with two male students at the School.

On January 9, 2013, in accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2004), § 59-5-10 (2004), and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the SCDE requested that the Chair of the State Board summarily suspend Ms. Wentzky's educator certificate 202486, as a result of her unprofessional conduct with a student and her arrest on January 7, 2013, in Forest Acres, South Carolina, and being charged with one count of Sexual Battery of a Student. On January 9, 2013, the SCDE sent the summary suspension order and a notice letter to Ms. Wentzky informing her of the summary suspension and that the State Board would meet to make a determination regarding the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina educator certificate. The letter also informed Ms. Wentzky that she was entitled to a hearing in this matter. The notice letter was returned unclaimed. After several attempts by the SCDE to serve Ms. Wentzky with notice of this action, the Richland County Sheriff's Department personally served Ms. Wentzky on August 23, 2013. Ms. Wentzky did not request a hearing and is in default.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

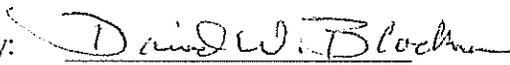
"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). Just cause includes "unprofessional conduct, immorality, conduct involving moral turpitude, and evident unfitness for position for which employed." S.C.

Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs 43-58 (Supp. 2011). The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE demonstrates that Ms. Wentzky engaged in unprofessional conduct, immorality, conduct involving moral turpitude and demonstrated evident unfitness for position for which employed as a result of her admission of her inappropriate relationship of a sexual nature with two male students. The evidence presented supports the State Board's decision to permanently revoke and render permanently invalid the educator certificate of Kinsley M. Wentzky, certificate 202486, effective October 9, 2013.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the Order of Permanent Revocation is approved and the educator certificate of Kinsley M. Wentzky, certificate 202486, is hereby declared permanently invalid and permanently revoked. The permanent revocation of the educator certificate of Kinsley M. Wentzky, certificate 202486 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: 
David W. Blackmon, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
October 9, 2013