BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension	)	
	)	
or Revocation of the	)	**ORDER OF**
	)	
Educator Certificate of	)	**SUSPENSION**
	)	
Donald K. Youmans	)	
	)	
Certificate 192083	)	
	)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on January 21, 2015. On October 22, 2014, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Mr. David K. Youmans a notice of his right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate 192083 by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. Mr. Youmans received the notice on October 23, 2014, as evidenced by USPS postal verification. Mr. Youmans did not request a hearing in this matter and is in default. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Mr. Youmans' educator certificate for a period of one year commencing on January 21, 2015, and ending on January 20, 2016.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Youmans holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over fourteen years of teaching experience. Mr. Youmans was employed by the Greenville County School District (District) as a teacher from August 14, 2007, until January 16, 2012, when he resigned for personal reasons. On February 24, 2012, the District hired Mr. Youmans as a substitute teacher and homebound teacher.

In the spring of 2014, the District payroll department reported a potential problem with the total number of hours Mr. Youmans worked during a one week period. The District also determined that hours reported for his homebound teaching position appeared to be unreasonable (such as the time of day and time between jobs). The District's investigation concluded that Mr. Youmans was falsely reporting hours worked.

On July 16, 2014, the District held a meeting with Mr. Youmans. When the issues were presented, Mr. Youmans admitted that he had falsely reported time worked. The District terminated Mr. Youmans' employment on July 18, 2014.

On October 22, 2014, the SCDE sent Mr. Youmans a notice of his right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate 192083 by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. Ms. Youmans received the notice on October 23, 2014, as evidenced by USPS postal verification. Mr. Youmans did not request a hearing in this matter and is in default.

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 (Rev. 2004); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (Rev. 2004). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (Rev. 2004); 2 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2011). The State Board finds that the evidence presented, which is undisputed by Mr. Youmans, demonstrates that Mr. Youmans engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of his admission to falsifying time sheets while serving as a homebound teacher for the District. The State Board finds that the information presented supports its conclusion that just cause exists to suspend the educator certificate of Donald K. Youmans on the grounds of unprofessional conduct for a period of one year commencing on January 21, 2015, and ending on January 20, 2016.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Donald K. Youmans, certificate 192083, is suspended for a period of one year commencing on January 21, 2015, and ending on January 20, 2016. If Mr. Youmans wishes to have his certificate reinstated at the conclusion of the period of suspension, he shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Services. Mr. Youmans shall be responsible for meeting all certification requirements in effect at the time he requests reinstatement of his certificate and for the payment of any applicable reinstatement fee.

The suspension of Mr. Youmans' educator certificate 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: _____
Traci Young Cooper, Ed.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

January 21, 2015