BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation Or Suspension of the Educator Certificate of Randy J. Dunn Certificate 232984	)	**ORDER OF SUSPENSION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 8, 2012. On June 6, 2012, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent to Mr. Randy J. Dunn notice of the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate. On June 15, 2012, Mr. Dunn was personally served notice as evidenced by proof of service from the Monroe County, New York Sheriff's Office. Mr. Dunn did not request a hearing within the time specified in the notice and is in default. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Mr. Dunn's educator certificate for a period of two years, commencing on August 8, 2012, and ending on August 7, 2014.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Dunn holds a professional educator certificate and has over five years of teaching experience. He holds no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Charleston County School District (District) employed Mr. Dunn as an Assistant Principal at James B. Edwards Elementary School for the 2010-2011 school year. Mr. Dunn held prior employment with the District as an Assistant Principal at Burns Elementary School.

On October 8, 2010, without permission or knowledge of the principal or any other District administrator, Mr. Dunn visited a Wachovia Bank branch to make a cash withdrawal the school's checking account in the amount of three thousand three hundred fifty-three dollars. On October 29, 2010, Mr. Dunn contacted the Wachovia Call Center

and directed that the address of the school's monthly checking account statement be changed to his home address.

After failing to receive the school account's October statement, the school's bookkeeper contacted the bank to obtain a copy. After receiving the October statement, the bookkeeper subsequently discovered the unauthorized withdrawal of school funds and dispersal to Mr. Dunn. The bookkeeper reported the discrepancy to the principal of the school. Mr. Dunn had not voluntarily disclosed to any school official the fact that he had withdrawn school funds. Mr. Dunn did not admit the facts of the withdrawal until he was confronted by the principal.

On November 15, 2010, Mr. Dunn provided a written statement to the principal claiming to have been confused about the source of the school funds because he also maintained an account at Wachovia bank. On November 16, 2010, the District placed Mr. Dunn on administrative leave, with pay. On November 16, 2010, Mr. Dunn paid full restitution to the District.

After completing the investigation, the District terminated Mr. Dunn's employment on December 6, 2010, for violation of District Policy GBEB – Employee Conduct. This policy states that employees are prohibited from "using or removal of school property without proper authorization." The District determined that Mr. Dunn did not exhibit conscientious concern with regard to his fiduciary responsibilities and misappropriated school funds. Mr. Dunn appealed his termination and requested a hearing before the Charleston County School District Board of Trustees. The hearing was held on February 16, 2010.

On March 14, 2011, the Chairman of the Charleston County School District Board of Trustees signed an order terminating Mr. Dunn's employment with the District.

On June 6, 2012, the SCDE served Mr. Dunn notice of the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate. On June 15, 2012, Mr. Dunn was personally served notice as evidenced by proof of service from the Monroe County, New York Sheriff's Office. Mr. Dunn did not request a hearing within the time specified in the notice and is in default. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend

Mr. Dunn's educator certificate for a period of two years, commencing on August 8, 2012, and ending on August 7, 2014.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004), S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004), 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2011). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct, dishonesty and any conduct which evidences unfitness for teaching. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2011). The State Board finds that the information presented supports its determination that Mr. Dunn engaged in dishonesty and unprofessional conduct and acted in a manner unfit for his position as assistant principal. As a result of his conduct and his misappropriation of school funds while employed as an assistant principal at James B. Edwards Elementary School, just cause exists to suspend Mr. Dunn's educator certificate 232984 for a period of two years, beginning August 8, 2012, and ending on August 7, 2014.

The State Board now therefore orders suspension of the educator certificate of Randy J. Dunn, certificate 232984. The suspension of Mr. Dunn's educator certificate 232984 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 and dishonesty.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: _____

David Blackmon, PhD, Chair-Elect

Columbia, South Carolina
August 8, 2012