BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation of the Educator Certificate of Debra Diana Woods Certificate 108287	)	**ORDER OF REVOCATION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 8, 2012. On March 28, 2012, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent a notice letter to Ms. Debra Diana Woods regarding the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina Educator Certificate. On May 8, 2012, Ms. Woods received the notice as evidenced by a proof of service from the Clayton County Sheriff's Office in the County of Clayton, State of Georgia. Ms. Woods did not send in a written request for a hearing within the fifteen day timeframe and is in default.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to revoke Ms. Woods' educator certificate 108287, effective August 8, 2012.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Woods holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate and has fifteen years teaching experience. She has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Ms. Woods was employed by the Charleston County School District (District) as the Guidance Director of Burke High School (School) until the District dismissed Ms. Woods from her position on February 3, 2011, following the District's investigation stemming from allegations that Ms. Woods violated District and School rules and regulations by falsifying official records, and falsely recording grades on student transcripts, including the transcript of her daughter. The grades Ms. Woods recorded failed to match the grades submitted to Burke High School for dual credit courses at Trident Technical College.

In addition to grade falsification, Ms. Woods circumvented administrative approval regarding APEX initial credit courses when she enrolled her daughter in APEX courses without following the required steps of compliance. Accordingly, Ms. Woods compromised the Burke High School senior class rankings.

On March 28, 2012, the SCDE sent a notice letter to Ms. Debra D. Woods regarding the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina Educator Certificate. On May 8, 2012, Ms. Woods received the notice as evidenced by a proof of service from the Clayton County Sheriff's Office in the County of Clayton, State of Georgia. Ms. Woods did not send in a written request for a hearing within the fifteen day timeframe as is in default.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to revoke Ms. Woods' educator certificate 108287, effective August 8, 2012.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-15 (2004) and may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004). Just cause includes "unprofessional conduct, dishonesty and evident unfitness for position for which employed." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (Supp. 2011). The State Board finds that Ms. Woods engaged in unprofessional conduct, dishonesty and demonstrated evident unfitness for position for which employed, as a result of her falsifying recorded grades on student transcripts at Burke High School .

The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE supports its decision that just cause exists to revoke the educator certificate of Debra Diana Woods, certificate 108287. The revocation of Ms. Woods' educator certificate 108287 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, dishonesty, and evident unfitness for position for which employed."

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: David Blackmon, PhD, Chair-Elect

Columbia, South Carolina

August 8, 2012