

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation or)
Suspension of the Educator Certificate of)
Shane Allen Watson,)
Certificate 256541)
_____)

**ORDER OF
SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The Chair of the South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on November 16, 2012. 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 Shane Allen Watson, certificate 256541, as a result of his being arrested on or about October 23, 2012, in Horry County, South Carolina, and being charged with Contributing To The Delinquency Of A Minor, S.C. Code Ann. § 16-17-0490 (Supp. 2011), and Communicating Obscene Messages To Another Person, S.C. Code § 16-15-0250 (2004). The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of these allegations of misconduct, Mr. Watson may pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of students that may be under his instruction and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Mr. Watson's educator certificate shall be summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Mr. Watson of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Watson holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate and has one year of teaching experience. Mr. Watson has been employed by the Horry County School District (District) as a social studies teacher at The Academy of Arts, Science and Technology (School). The District placed Mr. Watson on administrative leave immediately upon learning of his arrest. Mr. Watson has resigned from his position with the District, effective December 11, 2012.

Mr. Watson was arrested on or about October 23, 2012, in Horry County, South Carolina, and being charged with Contributing To The Delinquency Of A Minor, S.C. Code Ann. § 16-17-0490 (Supp. 2011), and Communicating Obscene Messages To Another Person, S.C. Code § 16-15-0250 (2004). It is alleged that Mr. Watson sent text messages using sexually suggestive language to a thirteen year old victim who was enrolled at the School. The SCDE has reason to believe that, due

to the serious nature of these allegations of misconduct, Mr. Watson may pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of students that may be under his instruction and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Mr. Watson's educator certificate shall be summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Mr. Watson of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

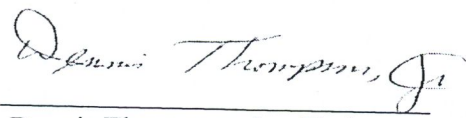
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"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 (2004). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct, immorality, any conduct involving moral turpitude, crime against the law of this State, and evident unfitness for position for which employed. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2011). In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2004), "If the agency finds that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, summary suspension of a license may be ordered pending proceedings for revocation or other action." Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann § 59-5-10 (2004) and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the Chair of the State Board finds that as a result of the allegations of Mr. Watson's unprofessional conduct, immorality, conduct involving moral turpitude, evident unfitness for position for which employed and his arrest for Contributing To The Delinquency Of A Minor, S.C. Code Ann. § 16-17-0490 (Supp. 2011), and Communicating Obscene Messages To Another Person, S.C. Code § 16-15-0250 (2004), there is reason to believe that Mr. Watson may pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of students and that emergency action is required. Accordingly, the educator certificate of Shane A. Watson, certificate 256541, is summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Mr. Watson of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By:



Dennis Thompson, Jr., Chair