

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension	)	
	)	
of the Educator Certificate of	)	ORDER OF SUSPENSION
	)	
Allen S. Krantz,	)	(BREACH OF CONTRACT)
	)	
Certificate 266404	)	
_____	)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on March 12, 2014. On December 18, 2013, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Mr. Allen S. Krantz a notice of his right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of his South Carolina educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. On December 20, 2013, Mr. Krantz received the notice as evidenced by a domestic return receipt bearing his signature. Mr. Krantz did not submit a written request to the SCDE for a hearing and is in default.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Mr. Krantz' educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on March 12, 2014, and ending on March 11, 2015.

FINDINGS OF FACT

This case concerns a formal complaint by the Orangeburg County School District Three (District) seeking the suspension of the educator certificate of Allen S. Krantz for breach of contract. The State Board has jurisdiction in this matter, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (Rev. 2004) and S.C. Code Ann § 59-25-530 (Rev. 2004).

Mr. Krantz holds a valid South Carolina educator certificate and has six and a half years of teaching experience. On July 11, 2013, Mr. Krantz signed an Induction Contract with the District for the 2013-2014 school year to work as a teacher at Lake Marion High School. On September 20, 2013, Mr. Krantz gave his classroom keys to a fellow teacher and failed to report to work at any point after that. Mr. Krantz did not inform the principal or the District of his intention to abandon his position. Other teachers informed the principal that Mr. Krantz did not

plan to return after September 20, 2013. Mr. Krantz did not submit a request to be released from his contract, nor was he released from his contract by the Superintendent.

On October 3, 2013, the District sent a letter to Mr. Krantz informing him that his abandonment of his position and his failure to submit a request to be released from his contract as required by Board Policy was a breach of his contractual obligations and unprofessional conduct. Board Policy GCQC/GCQD provides that any professional staff member who wants to terminate a contract must state his/her desire in writing to the superintendent and that the board will not release a teacher from his/her contract after July 1 except for circumstances beyond the teacher's control (ex., military/business transfer of spouse) or serious illness of the teacher. The policy also provides that the district reserves the right not to release the teacher if written notice is not given or a suitable replacement has not been found.

On October 8, 2013, the District Board of Trustees voted to report Mr. Krantz' breach of contract to the SCDE. On October 18, 2013, the District reported this matter to the State Board.

On December 18, 2013, the SCDE sent Mr. Krantz a notice of his right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of his South Carolina educator certificate for breach of contract by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. On December 20, 2013, Mr. Krantz received the notice as evidenced by a domestic return receipt bearing his signature. Mr. Krantz did not submit a written request to the SCDE for a hearing and is in default.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Mr. Krantz' educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on March 12, 2014, and ending on March 11, 2015.

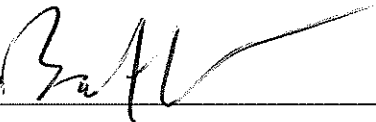
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"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 (Rev. 2004). Just cause includes, *inter alia*, "unprofessional conduct" and "wilful violation of the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (3) and (4) (Rev. 2004). Pursuant to 2 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2) and (14) (2011), the State Board of Education has the legal authority, *inter alia*, to suspend a certificate for "wilful neglect of duty" and "failure to comply with the

provisions of a contract without the written consent of the local school board.” The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Mr. Krantz breached his contract and engaged in unprofessional conduct, wilfully neglected his duty, and failed to comply with the provisions of his contract without the written consent of the superintendent or the board. The evidence presented further supports the State Board’s determination that just cause exists to suspend the educator certificate of Allen S. Krantz, certificate 266404, for a period of one year, commencing on March 12, 2014, and ending on March 11, 2015. If Mr. Krantz wishes to have his educator certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, he shall make a written request to the SCDE’s Office of Educator Services, and shall meet all certification requirements in effect at the time he requests reinstatement. Mr. Krantz shall also pay the applicable reinstatement fee. The suspension of Mr. Krantz’ educator certificate 266404 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: _____

Barry F. Bolen, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

March 12, 2014