

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension)
)
or Revocation of the)
)
Educator Certificate of)
)
Heather L. Page)
)
Certificate 228832)
_____)

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on February 11, 2015. On September 24, 2014, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Heather L. Page a notice of her right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina educator certificate 228832 by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. Ms. Page received the notice on September 27, 2014, as evidenced by postal verification. Ms. Page did not request a hearing in this matter and is in default. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspended Ms. Page's educator certificate for a period of one year commencing on February 11, 2015, and ending on February 10, 2016.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Page holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over seven years of teaching experience. Ms. Page had been employed by the Greenwood County District Fifty-Two (District) since 2009 as an English Language Arts teacher at Edgewood Middle School (School) until her resignation on January 31, 2014. Ms. Page's resignation followed an investigation into allegations that Ms. Page had taken approximately \$2000, from teachers at the School, between December 20, 2013 and January 23, 2014 in multiple forms, including cash, checks and gift cards. Ms. Page admitted that she had taken these items and stated that some of the gift cards were in her purse in her car. .

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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 Ms. Page, demonstrates that Ms. Page engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of her admission to taking cash, checks and gift cards from teachers at the School. The State Board finds that the information presented supports its conclusion that just cause exists to suspend the educator certificate of Heather L. Page on the grounds of unprofessional conduct for a period of one year commencing on February 11, 2015, and ending on February 10, 2016.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Heather L. Page, certificate 228832, is suspended for a period of one year commencing on February 11, 2015, and ending on February 10, 2016. If Ms. Page wishes to have her certificate reinstated at the conclusion of the period of suspension, she shall make a written request to the SCDE’s Office of Educator Services. Ms. Page shall be responsible for meeting all certification requirements in effect at the time she requests reinstatement and for the payment of any applicable reinstatement fees.

The suspension of Ms. Page’s 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
February 11, 2015