

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation or)
Suspension of the Educator Certificate of)
Bradley Edward Mea,)
Certificate 272080)
_____)

ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The Chair of the South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on December 21, 2016. In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2004), § 59-5-10 (2016), 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 Bradley Edward Mea, certificate 227564, as a result of his arrest on or about December 18, 2016, in Charleston County, South Carolina, for the charges of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, 1st degree, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §16-15-395(A)(1) (2016), Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, 2nd degree, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §16-15-405 (2016) and Criminal Solicitation of a Minor, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §16-15-342 (2016). All charges are classified as felonies. The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of these allegations of misconduct, Mr. Mea 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. Mea'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. Mea of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Mea holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate and has ten years of teaching experience. Mr. Mea is employed by the Palmetto Scholars Academy, Inc. (School), a charter school in the South Carolina Public Charter School District (District) since 2014. He was employed as a band and music theory teacher. Mr. Mea was placed on administrative leave on

or about December 19, 2016, following allegations that he had engaged in inappropriate behavior towards a 13 year old female.

Mr. Mea was arrested on or about December 18, 2016, in Charleston County, South Carolina, for the criminal charges of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, 1st degree, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §16-15-395(A)(1) (2016), Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, 2nd degree, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §16-15-465 (2016) and Criminal Solicitation of a Minor, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §16-15-342 (2016). All charges are classified as felonies. It is alleged that Mr. Mea convinced a 13 year old female in Charlotte, North Carolina to send him multiple nude photos and videos on the image messaging and multimedia mobile application known as SnapChat. Mr. Mea was aware of the teen's age and continued to demand images with a threat he would post photos of the naked girl on other social media sites, if she didn't cooperate. The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of this allegation of misconduct, Mr. Mea 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. Mea'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. Mea 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 (2016). 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 (2016); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2016). In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2016), "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 (2016) and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the Chair of the State Board finds that as a result of the allegations of Mr. Mea's unprofessional conduct, immorality, conduct involving moral turpitude, evident unfitness for position for which

employed and his arrest on the felony charges of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, 1st degree, Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, 2nd degree and Criminal Solicitation of a Minor, there is reason to believe that Mr. Mea may pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of students and that emergency action is required. Accordingly, the educator certificate of Bradley Edward Mea, certificate 272080, 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. Mea 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: 
Ivan Randolph, Ph.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
December 21, 2016