

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
BEFORE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

In the Matter of the Revocation)
)
of the Educator Certificate of)
)
Sanford D. Beason,)
)
Educator Certificate #273009)
_____)

**ORDER OF REVOCATION
(DISCIPLINARY)**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on March 13, 2018. The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) notified Sanford D. Beason (Beason) of his right to a hearing regarding potential disciplinary action against his South Carolina Educator Certificate by letter dated August 2, 2017, sent via certified and regular U.S. Mail. Beason timely requested a hearing. On December 20, 2017, a hearing was held concerning Beason's alleged unprofessional verbal and physical behavior, which included the display of a gun on school grounds.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board hereby voted to revoke Beason's educator certificate, effective immediately.

FINDINGS OF FACT

This case is a disciplinary matter involving Beason's unprofessional and dangerous verbal and physical behavior on school grounds and in the presence of others. The State Board has jurisdiction in this matter, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004) and S.C. Code Ann § 59-25-530 (2004).

Beason holds a valid South Carolina Educator Certificate and was employed by Spartanburg School District 7 (District) as a special education teacher at Brookwood Academy, a part of Whitlock Flexible Learning Center (Whitlock). On September 27, 2016, he initiated a loud verbal altercation laced with profanity with a co-worker over the content of a text message sent by the co-worker to another employee. The verbal altercation began inside the building whereupon Beason was instructed to leave the premises. He did not leave the premises but waited for the co-worker to exit the building, then continued the inappropriate verbal altercation.

Beason was escorted to his car where he proceeded to retrieve a gun and place it on his car seat. During the period of this altercation, professional employees from Whitlock and other schools in the district were arriving for a district wide training session and there was at least one student in the bus area. The altercation between Beason and the co-worker was in full view of these people. After an investigation by the District's Human Resources Department, Beason resigned from his position.

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Beason a notice of his right to a hearing regarding possible disciplinary action affecting his South Carolina Educator Certificate, by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. Beason timely requested a hearing. On December 20, 2017, a hearing was held concerning Beason's conduct in this matter.

After considering the evidence presented at the December 20, 2017 hearing, the State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Beason instigated a loud, profanity laced, verbal altercation with a co-worker on school grounds; failed to leave the school campus when instructed to do so; and displayed a gun on school property. These actions endangered the safety and welfare of all those in proximity to the altercation and violated state law and District Policy. Given the reckless and dangerous conduct of Beason, the Board finds that just cause exists to revoke Beason's Educator Certificate, effective immediately.

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 (2004). Just cause includes, *inter alia*, "unprofessional conduct". S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (4) (2004). S.C. Code Ann. § 16-23-420 (2015) states that it is unlawful for a person to possess a firearm on the premises of , *inter alia*, any public school unless the person possesses a concealed weapons permit and the weapon is in a closed compartment in a locked or attended vehicle. S.C. Code Ann. § 16-23-430 (2015) states that it is unlawful for any person, except persons properly authorized, to carry on his person any type of weapon which may be used to inflict bodily injury while on school property.

The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Beason's conduct was, at a minimum, unprofessional but is more appropriately described as reckless and dangerous. Accordingly, the evidence presented supports the State Board's determination that just cause exists to revoke the Educator Certificate of Sanford D. Beason, Educator Certificate #273009.

Beason has the right to apply for certification after three years. Beason shall, pursuant to State Board Rule BBCDB, be subject to a character and fitness review before the State Board, shall be required to provide the State Board with employment information during the period of certificate surrender; community service records; letters of support from a current or prospective school district employer, if applicable; letters of support from community leaders; and SLED and FBI background checks. Beason shall also pay all applicable fees, if any. The revocation of Beason's Educator Certificate #273009 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty (30) days from the date of this order with the reason stated as "unprofessional conduct."

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By:


Dr. Sharon Wall, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
March 13, 2018