

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of Revocation)
)
of the Educator Certificate of)
)
Christopher C. Clark,)
)
Certificate 193532)
_____)

ORDER OF REVOCATION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on March 13, 2018. On or about January 23, 2018, Christopher C. Clark confessed to engaging in inappropriate conduct with a student. On February 7, 2018, the Chair of the State Board summarily suspended Mr. Clark’s educator certificate. On February 7, 2018, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent the summary suspension order and a notice letter to Mr. Clark regarding the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina Educator Certificate. Mr. Clark received the certified mail on February 10, 2018, as evidenced by the signed postal receipt. Mr. Clark has not contacted the SCDE to request a hearing and is now in default. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to revoke Mr. Clark’s educator certificate effective March 13, 2018.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Clark holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate and has over eighteen years of teaching experience. Mr. Clark was hired by Chesterfield County School District (District) in 1999. He served as a social studies teacher at Chesterfield-Ruby Middle School (School) and coached girls’ basketball for Chesterfield High School. On January 22, 2018, the District placed Mr. Clark on administrative leave following an allegation that he had engaged in an inappropriate sexual relationship with a student in the District. He subsequently resigned his position with the District effective February 1, 2018.

The District first received allegations of Mr. Clark’s inappropriate conduct with a 17 year old female student on January 21, 2018. The District informed law enforcement of the allegations and interviewed Mr. Clark and the victim. During a second interview with the District on January 23, 2018, Mr. Clark confessed to kissing the student and admitted to digitally penetrating the student while she was unclothed in his classroom. Mr. Clark confessed to the inappropriate physical encounters with the student at the School as well as the local high school. Mr. Clark admitted the relationship began in approximately December of 2016, when the student

was 15 years old. He also admitted he had received an inappropriate picture of the female student through electronic messaging.

The Chair of the State Board summarily suspended Mr. Clark's educator certificate on February 7, 2018. Mr. Clark received a copy of the summary suspension and a notice letter via certified mail on February 10, 2018, as evidenced by the signed postal receipt. Mr. Clark has not contacted the SCDE to request a hearing and is now in default. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to revoke Mr. Clark's educator certificate effective March 13, 2018.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2016); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct, dishonesty, and evident unfitness for position for which employed. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016). The State Board finds the evidence presented demonstrates that Mr. Clark engaged in unprofessional conduct, immorality, conduct involving moral turpitude, and evident unfitness for position for which he was employed by engaging in inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature with a student.

The State Board finds the evidence presented by the SCDE supports its decision that just cause exists to revoke educator certificate 193532, effective March 13, 2018, issued in the name of Christopher C. Clark. The revocation of Mr. Clark's educator certificate 193532 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: 
Sharon Wall, Ed.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
March 13, 2018