

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of Revocation
of the Educator Certificate of
Bion L. Shoemaker,
Certificate 171368

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ORDER OF REVOCATION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on March 13, 2018. On or about August 18, 2016, Bion L. Shoemaker was arrested and charged with three counts of felony burglary, second degree, two counts of felony breaking into a motor vehicle, one count of unlawful carrying of a pistol, and one count of simple possession of marijuana. On August 22, 2016, the Chair of the State Board summarily suspended Mr. Shoemaker's educator certificate. On August 22, 2016, December 19, 2017, and January 17, 2018, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent the summary suspension order and a notice letter to Mr. Shoemaker regarding the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate. Mr. Shoemaker received the summary suspension and notice letter on January 24, 2018, as evidenced by the signed receipt bearing his signature. Under the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure 5(b), Mr. Shoemaker has been given fair notice of constitutional due process. Mr. Shoemaker 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. Shoemaker's educator certificate, effective March 13, 2018.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Shoemaker holds a suspended South Carolina educator certificate and has over twenty-one years of teaching experience. The Horry County School District (District) employed Mr. Shoemaker as a special education teacher at Socastee High School (School).

On or about August 18, 2016, Bion L. Shoemaker was arrested and charged with three counts of felony burglary, second degree, two counts of felony breaking into a motor vehicle, one count of unlawful carrying of a pistol, and one count of simple possession of marijuana. The District placed Mr. Shoemaker on administrative on August 19, 2016, and accepted his resignation from the District, effective on October 15, 2016. On August 22, 2016, the Chair of the State Board summarily suspended Mr. Shoemaker's educator certificate.

Mr. Shoemaker did not request a hearing and subsequently pled guilty to burglary, third degree, first offense, on December 12, 2016. The other charges from August 18, 2016, were dismissed. The court sentenced Mr. Shoemaker to four years of probation.

After the issuance of the summary suspension on August 22, 2016, Mr. Shoemaker was arrested two more times. On March 6, 2017, Mr. Shoemaker was arrested for burglary, second degree. He was not indicted and the charge was dismissed on October 20, 2017. On January 13, 2018, Mr. Shoemaker was arrested and charged with three counts of burglary, second degree. Those charges are still pending in criminal court.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to revoke Mr. Shoemaker'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 (2017). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct, dishonesty, and evident unfitness for position for which employed. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2017). The State Board finds the evidence presented demonstrates that Mr. Shoemaker engaged in unprofessional conduct and violated the laws of the State as a result of his guilty plea on the charge of burglary, third degree, first offense.

The State Board finds the evidence presented by the SCDE supports its decision that just cause exists to revoke educator certificate 171368, effective March 13, 2018, issued in the name of Bion L. Shoemaker. The revocation of Mr. Shoemaker's educator certificate 171368 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: Dr. Sharon Wall / 
Sharon Wall, Ed.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
March 13, 2018