

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of Revocation)
)
of the Educator Certificate of)
)
William Samuel Warden,)
)
Certificate 278237)
_____)

ORDER OF REVOCATION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on March 13, 2018. On or about July 28, 2016, William Samuel Warden was arrested and charged with two counts of criminal solicitation of a minor, sexual exploitation of a minor in the first degree, and three counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. On August 9, 2016, the Chair of the State Board summarily suspended Mr. Warden's educator certificate. On August 9, 2016, September 19, 2016, December 13, 2016, and December 5, 2017, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent the summary suspension order and a notice letter to Mr. Warden regarding the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina Educator Certificate. Mr. Warden received the certified mail on December 11, 2017, as evidenced by the signed postal receipt. Mr. Warden 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. Warden's educator certificate effective March 13, 2018.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Warden holds a suspended alternate route South Carolina educator certificate and has two years of teaching experience. Mr. Warden was employed as a mathematics teacher at Aiken County High School (School) with the Aiken County School District (District), as he pursued professional certification through the SCDE Program of Alternative Certification for Educators (PACE). Mr. Warden was placed on administrative leave on August 1, 2016, following allegations that he had been arrested for an inappropriate relationship with a sixteen year old female who was being tutored by Mr. Warden during the summer.

On or about July 28, 2016, Mr. Warden was arrested and charged with two counts of criminal solicitation of a minor, sexual exploitation of a minor in the first degree, and three counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. The charges included allegations that Mr. Warden requested the student send him sexually suggestive photos via social media.

On May 22, 2017, Mr. Warden was formally indicted on one charge of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. The arrest warrant for the charge reveals that Mr. Warden provided alcoholic beverages to the sixteen year old female student. In the texts messages with the student, Mr. Warden referred to the alcoholic beverages as "study aides."

On June 15, 2017, Mr. Warden pled guilty to contributing to the delinquency of a minor. He received a suspended two year sentence with a probationary period of 18 months. The Court also ordered that Mr. Warden serve 100 hours of public service employment and to have no further contact with the victim.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to revoke Mr. Warden'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, crime against the law of this state, 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. Warden engaged in unprofessional conduct, dishonesty, demonstrated an evident unfitness for position for which he was employed, and pled guilty to a crime against the law of this state on the charge of contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

The State Board finds the evidence presented by the SCDE supports its decision that just cause exists to revoke educator certificate 278237, effective March 13, 2018, issued in the name of William Samuel Warden. The revocation of Mr. Warden's educator certificate 278237 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