

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of Suspension)
)
of the Educator Certificate of)
)
Whitney T. Marcengill,)
)
Certificate 218094)
_____)

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered the matter on November 13, 2018. On September 26, 2018, and October 19, 2018, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent a notice letter to Ms. Marcengill informing her that the State Board would meet to make a determination regarding the possible disciplinary action of her educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. Ms. Marcengill has not requested a hearing in this matter and is now in default. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Marcengill educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on November 13, 2018, and ending on November 12, 2019.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Marcengill holds a valid South Carolina initial educator certificate and has over 26 years of teaching experience. Greenwood County School District Fifty (District) employed Ms. Marcengill as a business education teacher at Westview Middle School (School). Ms. Marcengill resigned from the District, effective April 26, 2018.

On May 2, 2018, the SCDE received a letter from the District reporting Ms. Marcengill's resignation. Ms. Marcengill resigned following allegations she was working while under the influence of alcohol. District staff located mini bottles of wine in Ms. Marcengill's purse. Additional mini bottles were located in Ms. Marcengill's classroom.

When contacted by the SCDE's investigator, Ms. Marcengill stated she did not wish to return to teaching.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Marcengill's educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on November 13, 2018, and ending on November 12, 2019.

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 (2017); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2017). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2017). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Ms. Marcengill engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of bringing alcohol on school property and performing her work responsibilities while under the influence of alcohol. Accordingly, the evidence presented supports the State Board’s determination that just cause exists to suspend the educator certificate of Whitney T. Marcengill, Educator Certificate 218094, for a period of one year, commencing on November 13, 2018, and ending on November 12, 2019.

If Ms. Marcengill wishes to have her educator certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, she shall make a written request to the SCDE’s Office of Educator Services and shall meet all certification requirements in effect at the time she requests reinstatement. Ms. Marcengill shall also be responsible for the payment of the applicable reinstatement fee. The suspension of Ms. Marcengill’s Educator Certificate 218094 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
Sharon Wall, Ed.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
November 13, 2018