

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

In the Matter of Revocation )  
 )  
of the Educator Certificate of )  
 )  
Brittney Ann Whetzel, )  
 )  
Certificate 266024 )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

**ORDER OF REVOCATION**

**SUMMARY OF THE CASE**

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on November 13, 2018. On or about April 16, 2018, Brittney Ann Whetzel was charged with two felony counts of Sexual Battery with a Student, S.C. Code Ann. §16-3-755 (D) (2017). On April 24, 2016, the Chair of the State Board summarily suspended Ms. Whetzel's educator certificate. On April 24, 2018, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent the summary suspension order and a notice letter to Ms. Whetzel regarding the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina Educator Certificate. Ms. Whetzel received the certified mail on April 30, 2018, as evidenced by the signed postal receipt. Ms. Whetzel 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 Ms. Whetzel's educator certificate effective October 9, 2018.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

Ms. Whetzel holds a suspended South Carolina educator certificate and has over four years of teaching experience. Ms. Whetzel was employed as an English teacher at Battery Creek High School (School) with the Beaufort County School District (District). Ms. Whetzel was placed on administrative leave on April 12, 2018, following allegations she engaged in a sexual relationship with two male students.

On or about April 16, 2018, Ms. Whetzel was charged with two felony counts of Sexual Battery with a Student, S.C. Code Ann. §16-3-755 (D) (2017). Ms. Whetzel was also charged with three misdemeanor counts of Transfer of Beer or Wine for Underage Person's Consumption, S.C. Code Ann. §61-4-90 (B) (2017). It is alleged Ms. Whetzel invited a coworker and two to three male students to her home. While at her residence, Ms. Whetzel allegedly provided the underage students with alcohol. During the incident, it is alleged Ms. Whetzel engaged in sexual relations with two of the students from the School. Her criminal charges are still pending in a criminal court of law.

On April 30, 2018, Ms. Whetzel received notification of pending action against her educator certification. She has not requested a hearing and is now in default. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to revoke Ms. Whetzel's educator certificate effective November 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, 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 Ms. Whetzel engaged in unprofessional conduct and demonstrated an evident unfitness for position for which she was employed.

The State Board finds the evidence presented by the SCDE supports its decision that just cause exists to revoke educator certificate 266024, effective November 13, 2018, issued in the name of Brittney Ann Whetzel. The revocation of Ms. Whetzel's educator certificate 266024 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