

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension of)
)
the Educator Certificate of)
)
Tyrone Talbert)
)
Certificate 903786)
_____)

**ORDER OF
SUSPENSION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on February 12, 2019. On November 16, 2018, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Tyrone Talbert a notice of his right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate 903786 by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. Mr. Talbert received the notice and spoke with the SCDE about the disciplinary action procedures. After Mr. Talbert failed to request a hearing or otherwise respond to the SCDE, he was sent a final notice on January 11, 2019. He did not request a hearing and is in default. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspended Mr. Talbert's educator certificate for a period of one year commencing on February 12, 2019 and ending on February 11, 2020.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Talbert holds a professional educator certificate and has over nineteen years of teaching experience. Mr. Talbert was employed by the Greenville County School District (District) as an assistant principal at Blue Ridge High School (School) during the 2015-16 school year.

On June 1, 2016, a teacher reported to Mr. Talbert's office to turn in items and grades at the end of the school year. When she entered his office, Mr. Talbert was speaking on his cell phone. The teacher began handing him items that make up the School's standard emergency kits, such as a flashlight. Sitting in a rolling office chair, Mr. Talbert distributed the items into their appropriate spots around Mr. Talbert's office. During the encounter, Mr. Talbert ended his phone conversation and turned to hand an item back to the teacher.

When she reached for the item, Mr. Talbert pulled her down on his lap. The teacher raised both hands in an attempt to stop her fall and Mr. Talbert used the opportunity to feel her buttocks. He also placed his mouth over her clothed breast. The teacher regained her footing, stood up, and hit Mr. Talbert on the head with a folder.

As she left his office, Mr. Talbert asked her, "I don't get a hug?" The teacher's response was "No." She repeated this response when Mr. Talbert then asked about the possibility of receiving a hug the following day. The teacher returned to her own office and reported the incident to the District's human resources department. Mr. Talbert was placed on administrative leave before resigning from the District on August 4, 2016.

On January 11, 2019, the SCDE sent Mr. Talbert a final notice of his right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible disciplinary action of his South Carolina educator certificate 903786 by regular mail. Mr. Talbert did not request a hearing and is now in default. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Mr. Talbert's educator certificate for a period of one year February 12, 2019, and ending on February 11, 2020.

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 (2004); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct, dishonesty, and evident unfitness for position for which employed. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE demonstrates that Mr. Talbert engaged in unprofessional conduct and unfitness for position for which he was employed due to his inappropriate conduct towards a subordinate employee. The State Board finds that the information presented supports its conclusion that just cause exists to suspend the educator certificate of Tyrone Talbert on the grounds of unprofessional conduct for a period of one year commencing on February 12, 2019, and ending on February 11, 2020.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Tyrone Talbert, certificate 903786, is suspended for a period of one year commencing on February 12, 2019, and ending on February 11, 2020. If Mr. Talbert wishes to have his certificate reinstated at the conclusion of the period of suspension, he shall make a written request to

the SCDE's Office of Educator Services. Mr. Talbert shall be responsible for meeting all certification requirements in effect at the time he requests reinstatement and for the payment of any applicable reinstatement fees. The suspension of Mr. Talbert's educator certificate 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:


Del-Gratia Jones, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
February 12, 2019