

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Alan Craig Brown
Certificate 177502

ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The Chair of the South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on January 28, 2021. In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2017), § 59-5-10 (2017), and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) requested that the Chair of the State Board summarily suspend the educator certificate of Alan Craig Brown, educator certificate 177502, as a result of his arrest for the felony charge of criminal solicitation of a minor, S.C. Code Ann. § 16-15-342 (2018).

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of these allegations of misconduct, Mr. Brown may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students, who may be under his instruction and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Mr. Brown's educator certificate shall be summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Mr. Brown of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Brown holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over twenty-two years of educator experience. At the time of his arrest, Mr. Brown was a teacher at the Odyssey Educational Center (School) in Dorchester School District 4 (District). Mr. Brown was placed on administrative leave on January 19, 2021.

On January 20, 2021, the South Carolina Attorney General's (AG) Office released a statement to the public announcing Mr. Brown's arrest on the felony charge of solicitation of a minor. The Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force

investigators participated in the investigation. According to the AG's announcement, "Investigators state Brown solicited a person he believed to be a minor for sex."

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of this allegation of misconduct, Mr. Brown may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students who may be under his instruction, and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Mr. Brown's educator certificate shall be summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Mr. Brown of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either 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, crime against the law of this State, and evident unfitness for position for which employed. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2017); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2017). In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2017), "If the agency finds that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, summary suspension of a license may be ordered pending proceedings for revocation or other action." Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-5-10 (2017) and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the Chair of the State Board finds that as a result of the allegations of Mr. Brown's unprofessional conduct, crime against the law of this State or the United States, and evident unfitness for the position for which employed, due to his felony arrest for charges of criminal solicitation of a minor, SC Code Ann. § 16-15-342 (2018), there is reason to believe Mr. Brown may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students and emergency action is required.

Accordingly, the educator certificate of Alan Craig Brown, certificate number 177502, is summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is

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otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Mr. Brown of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

s/Kristi Woodall
Kristi Woodall, Ed.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
January 28, 2021