

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
William E. Archie
Certificate 218791

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on April 12, 2022. On February 2, 2022, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent William E. Archie a notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, of his right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of his South Carolina educator certificate. The SCDE has received a signed receipt for the certified mail, and Mr. Archie has been given fair notice of constitutional due process. He has not contacted the SCDE to request a hearing and is now in default.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Mr. Archie's educator certificate for a period of two years, commencing April 12, 2022, and ending on April 11, 2024.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The State Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2018) and S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-530 (2018). Mr. Archie holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate. He has over seventeen years of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. At the time of the incident, Mr. Archie was a teacher at Dorman Freshman Campus (School) with Spartanburg School District Six (District).

As part of his role with the District, Mr. Archie assisted with the School's color guard and band. On October 15, 2021, School administration received a report from the School's band teacher that Mr. Archie made some of the band technicians, staff that helped with the band,

uncomfortable at the School. Specifically, it was alleged Mr. Archie made sexual comments to multiple female band technicians. One female technician alleged an occasion where Mr. Archie solicited sexual contact and made a number of comments regarding her sexuality. It was further reported that Mr. Archie made inappropriate comments regarding a male band technician's weight. The band technicians also felt Mr. Archie created a verbally aggressive and hostile environment for the students he worked with.

During an interview with District staff, Mr. Archie conceded he made sexual comments to one staff member; however, he contended the comments were made in a joking manner. He resigned from the District on October 18, 2021.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Order of Suspension of Mr. Archie's educator certificate 218791, for a period of two years, commencing on April 12, 2022, and ending on April 11, 2024.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." Just cause includes, inter alia, "unprofessional conduct" and "willful violation of the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2016). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Mr. Archie engaged in unprofessional conduct by making inappropriate and offensive remarks to subordinate female staff. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Mr. Archie's educator certificate 218791 for a period of two years, commencing on April 12, 2022, and ending on April 11, 2024.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certification of William E. Archie, educator certificate 218791, is suspended for a period of two years, commencing on April 12, 2022, and ending on April 11, 2024.

If Mr. Archie wishes to have his educator 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. Archie shall be responsible for meeting all certification requirements in effect at the time he

William E. Archie Certificate 218791

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

April 12, 2022

Page 3 of 3

requests reinstatement and for the payment of any applicable reinstatement fees. The suspension of Mr. Archie's educator certificate 218791 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

s/Alan Walters

Alan Walters, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

April 12, 2022