

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Lisa L. Laventure
Certificate 260340

(BREACH OF CONTRACT)

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on June 14, 2022. On March 29, 2022, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Lisa L. Laventure a notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, of her right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate. Ms. Laventure received the notice and contacted the SCDE on April 4, 2022 to advise she did not wish to request a hearing. She is now in default.

Considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Laventure's educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing June 14, 2022, and ending on June 13, 2023.

FINDINGS OF FACT

This case concerns a formal complaint of Lexington County School District Two (District) seeking the suspension of the educator certificate of Ms. Laventure for breach of contract. 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).

On July 15, 2021, Ms. Laventure signed a contractual agreement with the District to serve as an educator for the 2021-22 school year. On November 29, 2021, Ms. Laventure submitted her resignation to the District, effective January 7, 2022. In her resignation, Ms. Laventure cited a belief that the District was imposing unrealistic expectations for curriculum and a belief that students lacked the prerequisite skills necessary to comprehend her lessons. Ms. Laventure was notified she was not released from her contract. She subsequently did not return to fulfill her

contract. The District Board voted to report Ms. Laventure's breach of contract to the SCDE on January 20, 2022. On March 24, 2022, the District reported the matter to the SCDE.

After considering the evidence, the State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Ms. Laventure breached her contract with the District, and that just cause exists to suspend Ms. Laventure, certificate 260340, for a period of one year, commencing on June 14, 2022, and ending on June 13, 2023.

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 (3) and (4) (2018). Pursuant to 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2) and (14) (2018), the State Board of Education had the legal authority to suspend a certificate for "failure to comply with the provision of a contract without the written consent of the local school board." With respect to breach of contract, "any teacher who fails to comply with the provisions of his [or her] contract without written consent of the school board shall be deemed guilty of unprofessional conduct." S. C. Code Ann. § 59-25-530 (2018). "Upon formal complaint of the school board, substantiated by conclusive evidence, the state board shall suspend or revoke the teacher's certificate, for a period not to exceed one calendar year." Id.

The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Ms. Laventure breached her contract without the consent and/or approval of the District. Accordingly, the evidence presented supports the State Board's determination that just cause exists to suspend the educator certificate of Lisa L. Laventure for a period of one year, commencing on June 14, 2022, and ending on June 13, 2023.

If Ms. Laventure 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. Laventure shall also pay the applicable reinstatement fee. The suspension of Ms. Laventure's educator certificate 260340 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South

Lisa L. Laventure, Certificate 260340

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

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Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order, with the reason stated as “unprofessional conduct, breach of contract, willful neglect of duty, and failure to comply with the provisions of a contract without the written consent of the local school board.”

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

s/Alan Walters

Alan Walters, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

June 14, 2022