

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Roland Porter Hewes
Certificate 187992

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 13, 2024. On May 21, 2024, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Roland Porter Hewes a notice via regular and certified mail of his right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of his South Carolina educator certificate. Mr. Hewes received the notice on June 7, 2024, as evidenced by signed postal receipt. 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. Hewes' educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on August 13, 2024, and ending on August 12, 2025.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Hewes holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate. He has over twenty-five years of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Mr. Hewes was employed by Georgetown County School District (District) as an assistant principal at Georgetown High School (School).

On August 10, 2022, School administration reviewed 504 plans for the 2022-23 school year. After it was noticed that several meetings occurred in June, administration followed up with the School counselor about the meeting dates. The counselor could not recall meeting for any 504 plans during the 2021-22 school year, and especially not in June. Other staff members with electronic signatures on the 504 documents confirmed they had not attended the meetings either. Mr. Hewes was the School administrator responsible for the 504 plans during the 2021-

22 school year and had retired from the District. After discovering the document inaccuracies, the School scheduled meetings with the appropriate parties to bring all of the 504 plans up to date as required by law.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Order of Suspension of Mr. Hewes' educator certificate 187992 for a period of one year, commencing on August 13, 2024, and ending on August 12, 2025.

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 (Rev. 2004); 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 Roland Porter Hewes engaged in unprofessional conduct by falsifying students' 504 accommodation plans' electronic signatures and meeting dates in violation of S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2020). The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Roland Porter Hewes's educator certificate for a period of one year, commencing on August 13, 2024, and ending on August 12, 2025.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Roland Porter Hewes educator certificate 187992, is suspended for a period of one year, commencing on August 13, 2024, and ending on August 12, 2025.

If Mr. Hewes wishes to have the 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. Hewes 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. Hewes' educator certificate shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

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AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

s/David C. O'Shields
David C. O'Shields, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
August 13, 2024