

**BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

In the Matter of the  
Disciplinary Action of the  
Educator Certificate of  
Danny Shelton  
Certificate 301118

**ORDER OF REVOCATION**

**SUMMARY OF THE CASE**

The 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 Danny Shelton a notice via regular and certified mail of his right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate. The SCDE has verified Mr. Shelton's address, the certified letter was returned unclaimed, and the letter sent via regular mail has not been returned. On June 25, 2024, the SCDE informed Mr. Shelton via regular mail that the State Board would meet on August 13, 2024, or as soon thereafter as is feasible, to consider action against his educator certification. Under the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure 5(b), Mr. Shelton 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 revoke Mr. Shelton's educator certificate 301118, effective August 13, 2024.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

Mr. Shelton holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate. He has over three years of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. At the time of the incident, Mr. Shelton was employed by the Union County School District (District) as a teacher at Sims Middle School (School).

On or about February 7, 2023, School administration was made aware of social media posts accusing Mr. Shelton of inappropriate communications with a female student. During the investigation, Mr. Shelton initially denied having an account on the social media platform and

stated he did not friend any students on any social platform. The student showed Mr. Shelton's social media account and messages to administration. He had recently begun calling her "cute" and "fine" in class. When the student discussed her boyfriend, Mr. Shelton made remarks about the student "cheating" on him. He video-called the student and invited her to his house. Mr. Shelton made inappropriate remarks to other students as well, including a sexual comment regarding a student's mother. It was further discovered that at least one similar report of Mr. Shelton's behavior had been made to former administrators.

School administration notified law enforcement of the allegations at the beginning of the investigation. Law enforcement was able to subpoena social media platforms to confirm Mr. Shelton had exchanged messages with the student. After presented with this evidence, Mr. Shelton confessed he did talk to the student over social media.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to revoke Mr. Shelton's educator certificate 301118, effective August 13, 2024.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

"The State Board may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2020). Just cause includes "incompetence; willful neglect of duty; willful violation of the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education; unprofessional conduct; drunkenness; cruelty; crime against the law of this State or the United States; immorality; any conduct involving moral turpitude; dishonesty; evident unfitness for position for which employed; or sale or possession of narcotics." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2020); S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2021).

The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE supports its decision that just cause exists to revoke education certificate 301118, issued in the name of Mr. Shelton, effective August 13, 2024.

Mr. Shelton has the right to reapply for certification after three years. Mr. Shelton shall, pursuant to State Board Rule BBCDB, be subject to a character and fitness review before the State Board with employment information during the period of certificate surrender; community

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service records; letters of support from a current or prospective school district employer, if applicable; letters of support from community leaders; and SLED and FBI background checks. Mr. Shelton shall also pay all applicable fees for certification, if any. The revocation of Mr. Shelton'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 Board of Education

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

Columbia, South Carolina  
August 13, 2024