

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Brittany Semkiw
Certificate 300205

CONSENT ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on March 4, 2025. On October 2, 2024, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice via regular and certified mail, to Brittany Semkiw concerning the pending action against educator certificate 300205. After Ms. Semkiw received the notice, she contacted the SCDE to discuss an alternative resolution. Ms. Semkiw agreed to waive her right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Suspension for a period of six months.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Ms. Semkiw's educator certificate for a period of six months, commencing on March 4, 2025 and ending on September 3, 2025.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Semkiw holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has over four years of educator experience. She has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. At the time of the incident, Ms. Semkiw was employed by Lexington County School District One (District) as a 5th grade teacher at Pelion Elementary School (School).

On February 16, 2022, Ms. Semkiw spoke with School administration regarding a professional performance review. In order to review the details, administration requested Ms. Semkiw bring her student record folders to the meeting. Upon reviewing the folders, administration noticed that certain records were missing. Concerned about the missing

Brittany Semkiw
300205
s/BS
Initial
2/24/25
Date

records, administration compared the paper copies to the records entered in the online system. The student records did not match. Ms. Semkiw later admitted she had falsified the student data.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Ms. Semkiw's educator certificate for a period of six months, commencing on March 4, 2025 and ending on September 3, 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 Brittany Semkiw engaged in unprofessional conduct by falsifying student data. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Ms. Semkiw's educator certificate for a period of six months, commencing on March 4, 2025 and ending on September 3, 2025.

If Ms. Semkiw wishes to have her certificate reinstated at the conclusion of the period of suspension, she shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Services. Ms. Semkiw shall be responsible for meeting all certification requirements in effect at the time she requests reinstatement and for the payment of any applicable reinstatement fees.

The suspension of Ms. Semkiw'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.

Brittany Semkiw
300205
s/BS
Initial
2/24/25
Date

Brittany Semkiw, Certificate 300205
Consent Order of Suspension
March 4, 2025
Page 3 of 3

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Brittany Semkiw, certificate 300205, is suspended for a period of six months, commencing on March 4, 2025 and ending on September 3, 2025.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

s/Rita Allison
Rita Allison, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
March 4, 2025

I, Brittany Semkiw, SC Educator Certificate 300205, understand there has been an investigation concerning alleged violations of the laws and regulations governing the practice of educator certificate holders and that I have waived my right to a hearing in this matter. I understand the terms set forth in this Consent Order of Suspension are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. I agree to the terms of this Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of 3 pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board for approval on March 4, 2025.

I understand this Order will not become effective until approved by the State Board and, if not approved, it shall not constitute an admission against interest in this proceeding or prejudice the right of the State Board to adjudicate this matter. If approved by the State Board, I give the SCDE permission to use my electronic signature in the style of "s/name" for required website publication.

s/Brittany Semkiw
Brittany Semkiw

2/24/25
Date

Brittany Semkiw
300205
s/BS
Initial
2/24/25
Date