

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

IN THE MATTER OF LICENSE NO.) FINDING OF REASONABLE CAUSE
xxx-xx-6407 Edward L. Forsythe) AND STATEMENT OF CHARGES

Dr. June St. Clair Atkinson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, having received notice from Voyager Academy Charter School and the Superintendent's Ethics Advisory Committee, finds that:

1. Edward L. Forsythe holds professional license No. xxx-xx-6407, issued by the State Board of Education:

2. Edward L. Forsythe was employed by Voyager Academy Middle School as a Principal from June 1, 2007 until December 1, 2010. On January 28, 2011, the State Superintendent received a letter from Carl Forsyth, Managing Director of Voyager Academy Charter School, notifying her that Edward L. Forsythe had resigned his position following a parent's complaint of Mr. Forsythe's "Communicating and interacting in an inappropriate manner" with a female student. Voyager Academy had received copies of emails from the parent along with the dates and times that Mr. Forsythe sent text messages to several of the middle school female students. The emails sent to the two female students by Mr. Forsythe contained such lines as "... I really could not stand it if I did not hang out with you both at least 1-2 times a day"; "Love ya! Eddie"; "... you had one Principal wrapped around your finger and for me that just does not happen"; "Hey sweetheart"; and "because I love you and my only task right now is taking care of you".

In its letter to the Superintendent, Voyager Academy stated the emails and text messages showed that Mr. Forsythe "conducted his behavior under the guise of acceptable administrator duties"; and that the inappropriate behavior of Mr. Forsythe was "masked as counseling, tutoring and mentoring the students."

Mr. Forsythe was interviewed by the Superintendent's Ethics Advisory Committee on April 15, 2011. During that interview he was asked to explain the emails which he sent to the two female students. Mr. Forsythe said that over his many years of teaching he has become very close emotionally and open with his students. He treated the two female students like they had become part of his family. The Committee recommended to the Superintendent that Mr. Forsythe's license be revoked.

The standards of professional conduct set forth at 16 NCAC 6C .0602(b) require every licensed educator (i) to practice the professional standards of federal, state, and local governing bodies (.0602(b)(1)); (ii) to serve as a positive role model for students, parents and the community, and to demonstrate a high standard of personal character and conduct (.0602(b)(2)).

3. The State Board of Education has adopted a rule, codified as 16 NCAC 6C .0312, that governs the suspension or revocation of licenses. That rule provides, in part, that the Board may revoke a license based upon and, for any illegal, unethical or lascivious conduct by a person, if there is reasonable and adverse relationship between the underlying conduct and the continuing ability of the person to perform any of his/her professional functions in an effective manner (.0312(a)(8)).


4. The acts described in paragraph 2 violate the standard of professional conduct for educators in the State of North Carolina. Additionally, the acts described in paragraph 2, specifically the, bear such a reasonable and adverse relationship to Edward L. Forsythe's continuing ability to perform any of his professional functions in an effective manner.

5. There is reasonable cause to believe that the above referenced license should be revoked.

ON THE BASIS OF THIS DETERMINATION OF REASONABLE CAUSE, THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT FILES THE FOREGOING WRITTEN CHARGES AGAINST Edward L. Forsythe, license No. xxx-xx-6407.

These actions constitute grounds for the revocation of Edward L. Forsythe's license pursuant to 16 NCAC 6C .0602(b)(1),(2) and 16 NCAC 6C .0312(a)(8) and indicate that the license should in fact be revoked.

This Determination of Reasonable Cause and Statement of Charges are made the 2nd day of May, 2011.


June St. Clair Atkinson
Superintendent of Public Instruction and
Secretary, State Board of Education