

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)
)
COUNTY OF HUGHES) SOUTH DAKOTA DEPT. OF EDUCATION

In re: Certification Application of)
DANA STRONG) DSE 2022-15
) ORDER DENYING
) EDUCATOR CERTIFICATE

In accordance with and pursuant to the authority granted to the Secretary by SDCL §§ 13-42-4, 13-42-9, and ARSD article 24:18, and after review of the record herein, the Secretary issues the following Order:

1. The Secretary accepts the allegations of the Notice of Intent to Deny Educator Certificate as true and enters the attached Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.
2. The application of Dana Strong for an out-of-state initial educator certificate is DENIED.
3. Dana Strong is permanently prohibited from reapplication for an educator certificate in the State of South Dakota.
4. The Order and Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law are a public record pursuant to SDCL § 13-42-17.1 and ARSD 24:18:04:05.
5. Notification of this denial is to be placed on the NASDTEC registry and be placed in applicant's permanent certification file within the South Dakota Department of Education.

This constitutes final agency action and may be appealed to circuit court pursuant to ARSD 24:18:02:06.

Dated this the 7th of March, 2023.



Joseph Graves
Secretary
South Dakota Department of Education
800 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)
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COUNTY OF HUGHES) SOUTH DAKOTA DEPT. OF EDUCATION

In re: Certification Application of)
DANA STRONG) DSE 2022-15
) FINDINGS OF FACT AND
) CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Dana Strong filed an out-of-state initial application for an educator certificate which was activated on July 11, 2022. After a review of the entire file, the Secretary enters the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The South Dakota Department of Education Office of Educator Certification (hereinafter "Department") attempted to serve a Notice of Intent to Deny Educator Certificate and attached exhibits on Dana Strong (hereinafter "Strong") via certified mail, first-class mail, and email on or about November 9, 2022. The certified mail package was returned as unclaimed.
2. The Notice of Intent informed Strong that if he failed to request a hearing within 30 days after service of the notice, the allegations of the Notice would be accepted as true by the Secretary.
3. The Department received no request for hearing from Strong within the 30-day period.
4. Strong disclosed that his license was suspended for 1 year in another state.
5. Strong provided the Department a letter with further details depicting an inappropriate relationship with a female student. The letter states that there were accusations of physical relationship.
6. On or about July 14, 2022, an Administrative Complaint was filed against Strong with the Idaho

Professional Standards Commission, Case No. 22212.

7. On or about September 16, 2022, Strong entered into a Stipulation with the Idaho Professional Standards Commission in which Strong admitted to violating the law pertaining to maintaining professional relationship with all students.
8. The state of Idaho suspended Strong's certificate on September 16, 2022, and indicated it was based upon inappropriate actions and/or communication with a student.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

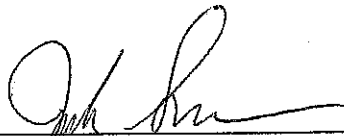
9. Grounds for the denial or non-renewal of an educator certificate are provided in SDCL § 13-42.
10. The Secretary of the Department of Education has the power and authority to refuse to issue or renew a certificate. SDCL § 13-42-9.
11. ARSD 24:18:03:02. Revocation or suspension in another jurisdiction. If the certificate of an applicant in another jurisdiction has been revoked or suspended by that jurisdiction, the order of revocation or suspension is prima facie evidence that the applicant does not meet the requirements for certification in this state.
12. Strong's certificate being suspended in Idaho is prima facie evidence that Strong does not meet the requirements for certification in South Dakota
13. Any Conclusion of Law more properly designated as a Finding of Fact is hereby so designated.
14. Strong's application should be denied pursuant to SDCL § 13-42-9.
15. Strong should be prohibited from reapplication for an educator certificate in the State of The Secretary has the power and authority to refuse to issue or renew a certification based on the grounds established in SDCL § 13-42-9.

THEREFORE, based on the foregoing with exhibits, notice is hereby provided of the

intent to deny Strong's application for an educator certificate pursuant to SDCL § 13-42-9.

Based upon the nature of the violations contained in this Notice of Intent to Deny, the Division of Accreditation and Certification will recommend that Strong's application be denied, and that Strong be prohibited from reapplication for certification in the state of South Dakota.

Dated this the 7th of March, 2023.



Joseph Graves
Secretary, South Dakota Department of Education