

**BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MAY 14, 2015**

**FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER
IN RE CLAUDIA MARIE GARRIGUS, PLSB CASE NO. T13-015A**

At its regular meeting on May 14, 2015, the Arkansas State Board of Education (Board) accepted the recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board Ethics Subcommittee (“Ethics Subcommittee”) recommendation for disciplinary action against the teaching license of Claudia Marie Garrigus (“Educator Garrigus”). Based upon Educator Garrigus’ consent to the Ethics Subcommittee’s recommendation and the evidence presented, in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, Ark. Code Ann. 25-15-101 et seq., the Board hereby states as follows:

I. Findings of Fact:

- a. The Arkansas Department of Education issued Educator Garrigus a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2013, valid until December 31, 2017.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Garrigus violated the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators (“Code of Ethics”) promulgated pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § § 6-17-422 and 6-17-428.
- c. On July 12, 2013, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Garrigus violated Standard 3 of the Code of Ethics: An educator honestly fulfills reporting obligations associated with professional practices.
- d. On July 16, 2013, Educator Garrigus was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee’s authorization to investigate this allegation.

- e. On April 7, 2014, after considering the investigator's report and evidence, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found that Educator Garrigus violated Standard 3 of the Code of Ethics when she:

Filed a fraudulent affidavit concerning the administration of the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program (ACTAAP) concerning portfolios for students with disabilities.

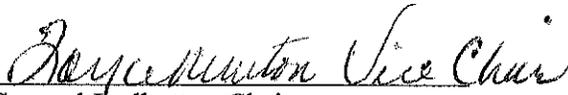
The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the Board revoke Educator Garrigus' license.

- f. On April 11, 2014, Educator Garrigus, through her attorney, was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's reasonable belief determination and recommendation by certified and regular mail.
- f. On May 8, 2014, Educator Garrigus, through her attorney, rejected the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation and requested an evidentiary hearing under the Administrative Procedure Act including those rights set forth in Ark. Code Ann. §§ 25-15-211 and 25-15-212.
- g. On February 6, 2015, the Ethics Subcommittee amended its initial decision and recommended that the State Board place Educator Garrigus' license on probation for three (3) years and assess a fine of \$75.
- h. On April 3, 2015, Educator Garrigus accepted the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation, thereby waiving her right to any further notice, or hearing, or any other rights she might have under the Administrative Procedure Act including those rights set forth in Ark. Code Ann. §§ 25-15-211 and 25-15-212.
- i. At today's meeting, the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation and supporting documentation were presented to the Board as part of its consent agenda.

II. Conclusions of Law:

- a. Upon consideration of the evidence presented at the meeting and pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-11-105, 6-17-401, 6-17-422, 6-17-428 and 25-15-201 et seq., and the Code of Ethics, the Board adopts the recommendations of the Ethics Subcommittee.
- b. Accordingly, the Board orders that Educator Garrigus' license be placed on probation for three (3) years and assesses a fine of \$75.
- c. Educator Garrigus is cautioned that further violations of the Code of Ethics or failure to pay the fine within thirty (30) days from the date of this order may result in more severe discipline including permanent revocation of his license.
- d. This order shall remain permanently in Educator Garrigus' professional licensure file and the confidential files of the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

IT IS SO ORDERED.


Samuel Ledbetter, Chair
Arkansas State Board of Education