

BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
May 14, 2015

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER
RE: RAYLEUN C. RIDEOUT; LICENSE WAIVER REQUEST

At its meeting on May 14, 2015, the Arkansas State Board of Education (Board) heard Rayleun C. Rideout's request for a waiver of a disqualifying offense for teacher licensing under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410. Based upon the testimony and evidence presented, in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-101 et seq., the Board hereby states as follows:

1. Findings of Fact:

- a. Rayleun C. Rideout holds a standard teaching license issued on January 1, 2015, and expiring on December 31, 2019.
- b. In January, 2015, the Department was notified that on December 16, 2014, Mr. Rideout was identified on the Child Maltreatment Central Registry as having a "true" finding of child maltreatment.
- c. Under, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410(c), the state board shall revoke any existing license not up for renewal of any person who has a true report in the Child Maltreatment Central Registry.
- d. On January 13, 2005, the Department informed Mr. Rideout by certified mail that he had a disqualification for licensing and employment in a public school. Mr. Rideout was also informed of his right to a hearing before the State Board to request a waiver.
- e. Mr. Rideout requested a waiver and was present at the hearing with his attorneys Robert T. James and James Phillips. The Board considered:
 - i. The educator's age at the time of the offense;

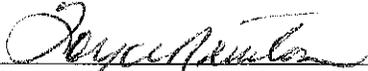
- ii. The circumstances surrounding the offense;
 - iii. The length of time since the offense;
 - iv. The educator's subsequent work history;
 - v. The educator's employment and character references; and
 - vi. Other evidence demonstrating that the applicant does not pose a threat to the health or safety of school children or school personnel.
- f. A motion was made to grant Mr. Rideout's request for a waiver and to place Mr. Rideout's license on probation for two (2) years conditioned upon Mr. Rideout not pleading guilty, nolo contendere, or being found guilty of any further disqualifying offenses under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410 as evidenced by a background check and Child Maltreatment Central Registry Check at the end of the two-year period, and his adherence to Arkansas Department of Education Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators. The Board's vote in favor was unanimous. The motion carried.

2. Conclusions of Law:

- a. The State Board of Education may consider certain enumerated offenses as a disqualification for licensing. See Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-17-410(c), 6-17-410(d)(A)(5) and 6-17-411. This includes offenses which have been expunged, sealed, and pardoned by the governor.
- b. Further, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410(f) allows the board to grant a waiver of the disqualifying offense and place conditions on the waiver.
- c. Upon consideration of the evidence presented at the meeting and pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-11-105, 6-17-410 and 25-15-201 et seq., the board waives Rayleun

C. Rideout's disqualifying offense for the purposes of licensing and employment eligibility as set out in paragraph 1(f).

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Toyce Newton, Vice-Chair
State Board of Education