

**BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**December 10, 2015**

**RE: ANN K. MOROCCO; LICENSURE WAIVER REQUEST**

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**FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER**

At its meeting on December 10, 2015, the Arkansas State Board of Education (“Board”) heard Ann K. Morocco’s (“Educator Morocco”) 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. Educator Morocco holds a standard teaching license.
  - b. Educator Morocco applied for a license renewal and a lifetime teaching license.
  - c. Educator Morocco is represented by counsel, John F. Greenhaw.
  - d. The Department was notified that Educator Morocco’s name had been placed on the Child Maltreatment Registry based on a true finding for Abuse.
  - e. On September 30, 2015, the Department notified Educator Morocco of her disqualification from licensure and employment in a public school.
  - f. On October 7, 2015, Educator Morocco requested a waiver from the Board.
  - g. On December 10, 2015, Educator Morocco appeared at the waiver hearing conducted before the Board.
  - h. At the waiver hearing, 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.
- i. A motion was made to grant Educator Morocco's request for a waiver, thereby allowing the Department to issue an appropriate license if all other eligibility requirements have been established.
  - j. 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. 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 Arkansas State Board of Education waives Educator Morocco's disqualifying offense for the purposes of licensure and employment eligibility. If Educator Morocco otherwise meets the requirements for licensing, the Department may issue her a license.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



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Toyce Newton, Chair  
Arkansas State Board of Education