

THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:
BRYAN GERALD LITTLE
SEPTEMBER 12, 2019**

**LICENSURE ACTION
CASE NO: LA-19-14**

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER

At its regular meeting on September 12, 2019, the Arkansas State Board of Education (Board) heard the waiver request of the teaching license of Bryan Gerald Little (Educator Little) pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410(c). 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:

I. Findings of Fact

- a. The Department received information from public records that on August 12, 2019, (Educator Little), was found guilty of two counts of Possession of a Controlled Substance, which are disqualifying offenses for teacher licensing under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410(c).
- b. Educator Little was notified that he was found guilty of a disqualifying offense, and had thirty (30) days to request a waiver hearing on the revocation of his license on August 20, 2019. Educator Little did request a hearing regarding the revocation of his license. He was represented by attorney Ethan Nobles at the hearing.
- c. 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.
- d. A motion was made to grant a waiver of the disqualifying offense. The Board voted in favor six(6) to one (1) to grant the waiver subject to the following conditions:
- i. Probation of license for 2 years;
 - ii. Require Educator to have a sponsor;
 - iii. Require educator to provide documentation of no new violations at the end of each semester. This documentation is to come from his supervisor.
 - iv. Educator is required complete a monthly urine drug test. If the Educator's criminal probation ends prior to the two year probation then Educator is required to provide the results to the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education's licensure attorney.
 - v. Require Educator to pay all associated costs.

II. Conclusions of Law

- a. The State Board of Education may consider a true report in the Child Maltreatment Central Registry or 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 the disqualifying offense.

c. This Order shall become a permanent entry in the licensure file of the educator.

IT IS SO ORDERED.


Diane Zook, Chair
Arkansas State Board of Education