

BEFORE THE KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of
the Application of
Gwendolyn Reynolds

PPC No. 20-PPC-11
OAH No. 21ED0003 ED

FINAL ORDER

NOW, on this 9th day of March 2021, the above-captioned matter comes for consideration by the Kansas State Board of Education (Board). Appearing for the Board are Chairman, Jim Porter and members, Betty Arnold, Jean Clifford, Michelle Dombrosky, Melanie Haas, Deena Horst, Ben Jones, Jim McNiece, Ann Mah and Janet Waugh.

WHEREUPON the Professional Practices Commission (Commission) considered the matter on February 5, 2021. Gwendolyn Reynolds appeared on her behalf. The Kansas State Department of Education appeared through its attorney, Scott Gordon. After reviewing the evidence and upon joint recommendation by Ms. Reynolds and Mr. Gordon, the Commission voted **8 – 0**, to recommend Gwendolyn Reynold's application for a professional teaching license is granted subject to public censure.

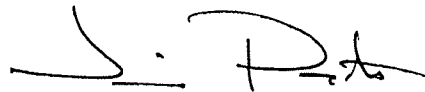
WHEREUPON the Board reviewed the Commission's Initial Order and after considering the presentation by Jennifer Holt, Commission Chair, who was available to answer the Board's questions and being otherwise duly advised in the premises, the Board adopted the Commission's findings of fact and conclusions of law by a vote of **10 – 0**.

All findings set forth in the Commission's Initial Order attached hereto are incorporated by reference and made a part of this Final Order as though fully set forth at length herein.

IT IS THEREFORE CONCLUDED by the Kansas State Board of Education Gwendolyn Reynold's application for a professional teaching license is granted subject to public censure.

This Final Order is made and entered this 9th day of March 2021.

Kansas State Board of Education



BY: Jim Porter, Chairman
Signed March 15, 2021

NOTICE TO LICENSEE/APPLICANT

This is a Final Order and is effective upon service.

To request reconsideration of this order, you must file a Petition for Reconsideration with the Secretary to the State Board of Education, at the address below, within 15 days after service of this Final Order. The Petition must state the specific grounds upon which relief is requested.

To request a stay of effectiveness of this order, you must file a Petition for Stay with the Secretary to the State Board of Education at the address below. A petition can be filed until the time which a petition for judicial review would no longer be timely.

To seek judicial review of a Final Order, you must file a petition in the District Court as authorized by K.S.A. 77-601, *et seq.* within 30 days following the service of the Final Order. Filing a Petition for Reconsideration is not a prerequisite for seeking judicial review. A copy of any Petition for Judicial Review must be served upon the Secretary to the State Board of Education at the address below.

Peggy Hill
Secretary, Kansas State Board of Education
Landon State Office Building
900 SW Jackson Ave. Suite 600N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

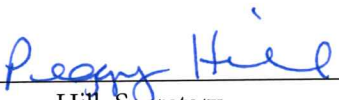
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 15th day of March 2021, a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing was mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, to:

Gwendolyn Reynolds
1712 E. Penrose Lane
Olathe, Kansas 66062

And via interoffice mail to:

R. Scott Gordon
Kansas State Department of Education
900 SW Jackson Street, Ste. 102
Topeka, Kansas 66612



Peggy Hill, Secretary
Kansas State Board of Education

**BEFORE THE KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMISSION**

In the Matter of
the Application of
Gwendolyn Reynolds

PPC No. 20-PPC-11
OAH NO. 21ED0003 ED

INITIAL ORDER

The above-captioned case comes on for hearing before the Professional Practices Commission (“Commission”) of the Kansas State Board of Education (“State Board”) upon the Complaint filed by the Kansas State Department of Education (“KSDE”). The hearing on this matter was held on February 5, 2021. R. Scott Gordon appeared on behalf of KSDE. Ms. Reynolds (“Applicant”) appeared on her own behalf.

Findings of Fact

1. Applicant applied to be licensed as a teacher by the Kansas State Board of Education.
2. Applicant was arrested for Driving Under the Influence of an Intoxicating Liquor and various other charges on January 2, 2012. The conduct that led to that arrest involved Applicant driving a motor vehicle with Applicant’s two minor children in the vehicle with her at the time.
3. The Applicant testified to the following: her older son realized she was drinking or had been drinking and asked her to stop the car so he could get out and call 9-1-1-. Applicant’s younger child reluctantly left the car as well. The children used a stranger’s cell phone to call 9-1-1 at a rest area. Applicant testified that she drove away from the rest area to turn around and was heading back to her children when she was stopped by law enforcement.
4. After her arrest and subsequent conviction, Applicant received a license from the Arizona Department of Education. The Applicant testified that she informed the Arizona Department of Education of her arrest and conviction, but she did not share the specific details or that her children were involved.
5. Applicant has not been involved in any criminal activity since successfully completing her probation.
6. Applicant has informed her current employing school district of her criminal record and of these proceedings but has not shared with that district any specific details about her children being involved.

Conclusions of Law

1. The Kansas State Board of Education (State Board) is responsible for the general supervision of Kansas education, including the certification and licensure of teachers. Kan. Const., Art. VI and K.S.A. 72-255.
2. One of the obvious goals of education is to “instill respect for the law.” Hainline v. Bond, 250 Kan. 217 (1992). An educator is a role model. Hainline at 224.
3. Teaching and school administration are professions with all the similar rights, responsibilities and privileges accorded other legally recognized professions. K.S.A. 72-2308.

4. The Kansas State Board of Education may revoke or suspend the license of any teacher, or the teacher may be publicly censured, for professional misconduct or other just cause including entering into a criminal diversion agreement after being charged of a crime involving drug-related conduct. K.A.R. 91-22-1a.
5. By order of the State Board, the Commission shall investigate and conduct hearings pertaining to allegations of misconduct.


After KSDE finished presenting their evidence of the Applicant's misconduct, the hearing recessed for a short amount of time for KSDE to speak with the Applicant outside the presence of the Commission. Upon reconvening the hearing, Counsel for KSDE announced that KSDE and Applicant had reached a settlement agreement. Both parties asked the Commission to recommend to the State Board that Applicant receive her requested license subject to censure based upon the misconduct which occurred while she was a licensed teacher.

Because KSDE and the Licensee agree to not present any additional evidence or information other than what has already been provided to the Professional Practices Commission and the stipulations contained herein, nor will either party ask the Commission or the State Board for discipline other than that recommended in this Initial Order.

THEREFORE the Professional Practices Commission recommends to the State Board, by a vote of 8-0, that Applicant's license be issued subject to public censure.

This Initial Order is made and entered this February 5, 2021.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMISSION



Jennifer Holt, Chairwoman

Order signed on February 11, 2020.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 12 day of February, 2021, a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing was filed online with the Office of Administrative Hearings and one copy was sent by electronic mail to:

Gwen Reynolds
gwenreynolds921@gmail.com

NOTICE TO APPLICANT

This Order is not a Final Order and is required to be reviewed by the Kansas State Board of Education in accordance with the provisions of the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act. The State Board will review all issues. Notice of review with the specific date and time will be provided to the parties within 15 days of the review.

You may submit to the State Board for its consideration as part of its review of the Initial Order a written brief citing legal authority as to why the above recommendation should not be accepted. You must file the brief with the State Board Secretary at the address indicated below within ten calendar days after service of the Initial Order for transmittal to the State Board. You must also make any request for oral argument at that time.

Peggy Hill
Secretary, Kansas State Board of Education
900 SW Jackson Street, Suite 600
Topeka, KS 66612

Response briefs are due within ten calendar days after service of the legal brief upon the opposing party. Any reply brief is due five calendar days after service of any response brief upon the opposing party. Any response or reply briefs must also be filed with the State Board Secretary at the address indicated above.