

Gelonzo Davis
Voluntary Surrender

The Background:

Prior History: N/A

Facts: Mr. Davis was reported by Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools (“MNPS”) after the Department of the Army issued a letter withdrawing his certification to be an Army Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (“JROTC”) instructor. According to the letter, the Army conducted a routine background check that revealed previously undiscovered “derogatory information.” Due to the nature of the information discovered, Mr. Davis is automatically disqualified from holding a childcare position with access to children under the age of eighteen (18), pursuant to Department of Defense Instruction 1402.05. Mr. Davis resigned his position with MNPS, effective February 17, 2022.

Applicable Law

/Rule: T.C.A. § 49-5-1003(b)(1) provides that educators shall abide by all applicable federal and state laws.

T.C.A. § 49-5-1004(b)(1) provides, in part, that educators shall not fail to disclose a material fact related to competency and qualifications in an application for a professional position.

T.C.A. § 49-5-1004(c)(2) provides that educators shall conduct themselves in a manner that preserves the dignity and integrity of the education profession.

0520-02-03-.09(1)(k) defines good cause as conduct that calls into question the fitness of an educator to hold a license including, but not limited to, violation of any provision in the Teacher Code of Ethics as contained in T.C.A. §§ 49- 5-1001, et seq.

0520-02-03-.09(3)(i) provides that the State Board of Education may revoke, suspend, formally reprimand, or refuse to issue or renew an educator’s license for other good cause as defined in subparagraph (1)(k) of this rule.

0520-02-03-.09(3)(j) provides that the State Board of Education may revoke, suspend, formally reprimand, or refuse to issue or renew an educator’s license for any offense contained in paragraphs (4) and/or (5) of this rule.

0520-02-03-.09(5)(a)(8) provides that an individual holding an educator’s license who is found to have violated the teacher code of ethics contained in T.C.A. Title 49, Chapter 5,

Part 10 shall be subject to a disciplinary action within the range of a formal reprimand up to and including revocation.

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board's intent to revoke Respondent's educator license based upon these findings. Respondent received said notice. Respondent agreed to voluntarily surrender his license and not reapply for restoration of his license for a period of five (5) years from the date of approval of the signed Consent Order.

Board Action Consistency Considerations:

None.

The Recommendation:

The Board staff recommends that the Board approve the signed Consent Order submitted by the Respondent for the voluntary surrender of Respondent's license based upon the facts and applicable rule noted above.