



Before the Education Practices Commission of the State of Florida



PAM STEWART as the
Commissioner of Education,

Petitioner,

vs.

WANDA EZELL BOOTH,

Respondent.

EPC CASE N^o: 18-0397-RT

Index N^o: 19-020-FOI

PPS N^o: 167-3626

Certificate No.: 489360

Final Order

This matter appeared before the Education Practices Commission (“Commission”) at a duly-noticed public meeting on December 13, 2018 in Tallahassee, Florida. Petitioner has filed an Administrative Complaint seeking suspension, revocation, permanent revocation or other disciplinary action against the certificate. A copy of the Administrative Complaint is attached to and made a part of this Order.

Service of the Administrative Complaint was made upon Respondent by certified mail. Respondent has failed to respond to the Administrative Complaint and has not requested a hearing or any other proceeding. Respondent was not present.

FINDING OF FACTS

The Commission finds that Respondent was properly served with the Administrative Complaint, has failed to respond timely, and has waived any right to be heard.

The Commission adopts as its finding of facts the facts alleged in the Administrative Complaint.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based upon the Findings of Fact, the Commission concludes the Respondent has violated Section 1012.795(1)(j), Florida Statute.

The Commission is empowered by Sections 1012.795(1) and 1012.796(7), Florida Statutes, to impose a penalty against the Respondent.

Therefore, it is ORDERED that:

1. Respondent's Florida educator's certificate is hereby revoked for a period of five (5) years from the date of this Final Order.

DONE AND ORDERED, this 8th day of January, 2019.


NICHOLAS PIETKIEWICZ, Presiding Officer

COPIES FURNISHED TO:

Office of Professional Practices
Services

Bureau of Educator Certification

Superintendent
Polk County Schools
P.O. Box 391
Bartow, FL 338310391

Director, Employee Relations

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO JUDICIAL REVIEW

A PARTY WHO IS ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THIS FINAL ORDER IS ENTITLED TO JUDICIAL REVIEW PURSUANT TO SECTION 120.68, FLORIDA STATUTES. REVIEW PROCEEDINGS ARE GOVERNED BY THE FLORIDA RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE. SUCH PROCEEDINGS ARE COMMENCED BY FILING ONE COPY OF A NOTICE OF APPEAL WITH THE EDUCATION PRACTICES COMMISSION AND A SECOND COPY, ACCOMPANIED BY FILING FEES PRESCRIBED BY LAW, WITH THE DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL, FIRST DISTRICT, OR WITH THE DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL IN

Polk County Schools
P.O. Box 391
Bartow, FL 338310391

THE APPELLATE DISTRICT WHERE THE
PARTY RESIDES. THE NOTICE OF APPEAL
MUST BE FILED WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS
OF RENDITION OF THIS ORDER.

Lawrence Harris
Assistant Attorney General

Claudia Llado, Clerk
Division of Administrative Hearings

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing Order was mailed to Wanda Ezell Booth, [REDACTED], Lakeland, FL 33810 by Certified U.S. Mail and by electronic mail to Bonnie Wilmont, Deputy General Counsel, Suite 1232, Turlington Building, 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399 this 8th day of January, 2019.



Lisa Forbess, Clerk
Education Practices Commission

**STATE OF FLORIDA
EDUCATION PRACTICES COMMISSION**

**PAM STEWART, as
Commissioner of Education,**

Petitioner,

vs.

CASE NO. 167-3626

WANDA EZELL BOOTH,

Respondent.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT

Petitioner, Pam Stewart, as Commissioner of Education, files this Administrative Complaint against WANDA EZELL BOOTH. The Petitioner seeks the appropriate disciplinary sanction of the Respondent's educator's certificate pursuant to sections 1012.315, 1012.795, and 1012.796, Florida Statutes, and pursuant to Rule 6A-10.081, Florida Administrative Code, Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida, said sanctions specifically set forth in sections 1012.795(1) and 1012.796(7), Florida Statutes.

The Petitioner alleges:

JURISDICTION

1. The Respondent holds Florida Educator's Certificate 489360, covering the areas of Elementary Education, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and Primary Education, which is valid through June 30, 2022.
2. At all times pertinent hereto, the Respondent was employed as a Kindergarten Teacher at McKeel Academy in the Polk County School District.

MATERIAL ALLEGATIONS

3. On or about December 18, 2012, Respondent carried a loaded handgun in her purse while on school grounds and while on a school bus with students present.

The Petitioner charges:

STATUTE VIOLATIONS

COUNT 1: The Respondent is in violation of section 1012.795(1)(j), Florida Statutes,

in that Respondent has violated the Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession prescribed by State Board of Education rules.

RULE VIOLATIONS

COUNT 2: The allegations of misconduct set forth herein are in violation of Rule 6A-10.081(2)(a)1, Florida Administrative Code, in that Respondent has failed to make reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions harmful to learning and/or to the student's mental health and/or physical health and/or safety.

WHEREFORE, based on the reasons set forth herein and in accordance with the Explanation of Rights and Election of Rights forms attached to and made a part of this Administrative Complaint, Petitioner respectfully recommends that the Education Practices Commission impose an appropriate sanction against the Respondent's educator's certificate pursuant to the authority provided in sections 1012.795(1) and 1012.796(7), Florida Statutes. The sanctions imposed by the Education Practices Commission may include, but are not limited to, any one or a combination of the following: issuing the Respondent a written reprimand; placing the Respondent on probation for any period of time; restricting the Respondent's authorized scope of practice; assessing the Respondent an administrative fine; directing the Respondent to enroll in the Recovery Network Program; suspending the Respondent's educator's certificate for a period of time not to exceed five years; revoking the Respondent's educator's certificate for a period of time up to 10 years or permanently; determining the Respondent to be ineligible for certification; or barring the Respondent from reapplying for an educator's certificate for a period of time up to 10 years or permanently.

EXECUTED on this 23rd day of August, 2018.



PAM STEWART, as
Commissioner of Education
State of Florida