

IN THE MATTER OF : NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
THE CERTIFICATE OF : STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
KAITLIN C. MCGREEVY : ORDER OF SUSPENSION
_____ : DOCKET NO: 1718-267

At its meeting of September 21, 2018, the State Board of Examiners (Board) reviewed information the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office and the Criminal History Review Unit (CHRU) had forwarded regarding Kaitlin C. McGreevy. On January 4, 2017, McGreevy was charged with Possession of CDS (3rd degree) and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, a disorderly persons offense. As a result of the charges, on April 6, 2017, McGreevy was indicted for Possession of CDS (3rd degree). On May 22, 2018, she pled guilty to Disorderly Conduct. While the January charges were pending, on March 2, 2017, McGreevy was charged with Possession of CDS (heroin) with Intent to Distribute (3rd degree), Possession of CDS (heroin) within 1,000 feet of a school (2nd degree) and Possession of CDS (heroin) (3rd degree). Those charges were administratively dismissed on May 22, 2018. McGreevy currently holds a Teacher of Art Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing. Upon review of the above information, the Board voted at its meeting of November 1, 2018 to issue McGreevy an Order to Show Cause as to why her certificate should not be suspended.

After securing the correct address for McGreevy, the Board sent her the Order to Show Cause by regular and certified mail on November 29, 2018. The Order provided that McGreevy must file an Answer within 30 days. McGreevy filed an Answer, which she dated November 29, 2018.

In her Answer, McGreevy admitted to the allegations in the Order to Show Cause but noted that she had made some mistakes in the past "as a result of some pain management issues and I have paid for them." (Answer, ¶ 3). She added that she was not the same person as she was then. (Answer, ¶ 3). McGreevy also emphasized that she was not proud of the mistakes she had made but that she was currently healthy and working. (Answer, ¶ 4). She stated that she had cut ties with the people who were a bad influence in her life. (Answer, ¶ 4). McGreevy noted that although she was not teaching at the moment, she enjoyed working with young people and wanted to be able to pursue teaching opportunities in the future.

(Answer, ¶ 4). Finally, McGreevy claimed that she was confident she had turned her life around and would have a great deal to offer students in the future. (Answer, ¶¶ 5, 6).

Thereafter, pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9B-4.6(e), on July 30, 2018, the Board sent McGreevy a hearing notice by regular and certified mail. The notice explained that it appeared that no material facts were in dispute. Thus, McGreevy was offered an opportunity to submit written arguments on the issue of whether the conduct addressed in the Order to Show Cause constituted conduct unbecoming a certificate holder, as well as arguments with regard to the appropriate sanction in the event that the Board found just cause to take action against her certificate. It also explained that, upon review of the charges against her and the legal arguments tendered in her defense, the Board would determine if her disqualifying offense warranted action against her certificate. Thereupon, the Board would also determine the appropriate sanction, if any. McGreevy was also offered the opportunity to appear before the Board to provide testimony on the sanction issue. The certified mail copy was returned and the regular mail copy was not returned. McGreevy did not file a response.

The threshold issue before the Board in this matter is whether McGreevy's conduct and conviction constitute conduct unbecoming a certificate holder. At its meeting of May 17, 2019, the Board considered the allegations in the Order to Show Cause as well as McGreevy's Answer. The Board determined that no material facts related to McGreevy's offense were in dispute since she did not deny that she had engaged in the conduct alleged in the Order to Show Cause. Thus, the Board determined that summary decision was appropriate in this matter. *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9B-4.6(h).

The Board must now determine whether McGreevy's conduct and conviction, as set forth in the Order to Show Cause, represent just cause to act against her certificate pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9B-4.4. The Board finds that they do.

The Board may revoke or suspend the certification of any certificate holder on the basis of demonstrated inefficiency, incapacity, conduct unbecoming a teacher or other just cause. *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9B-4.4. "Teachers... are professional employees to whom the people have entrusted the care and custody of ... school children. This heavy duty requires a degree of self-restraint and controlled behavior rarely

requisite to other types of employment.” *Tenure of Sammons*, 1972 *S.L.D.* 302, 321. Moreover, unfitness to hold a position in a school system may be shown by one incident, if sufficiently flagrant. *Redcay v. State Bd. of Educ.*, 130 *N.J.L.* 369, 371 (1943), *aff’d*, 131 *N.J.L.* 326 (E & A 1944). In this matter, McGreevy’s actions, involving the possession of drugs and drug paraphernalia, is conduct that evinces a serious lapse in judgment. Nonetheless, McGreevy is working and healthy and had taken steps to change her life. The Board therefore concludes that the appropriate response to McGreevy’s breach is a three-year suspension of her certificate.

Accordingly, on May 17, 2019, the Board voted to suspend Kaitlin C. McGreevy’s Teacher of Art Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing, for a period of three years. On this 28th day of June 2019, the Board voted to adopt its formal written decision and it is therefore ORDERED that McGreevy’s certificate is hereby suspended for a period of three years, effective immediately. It is further ORDERED that McGreevy return her certificate to the Secretary of the State Board of Examiners, Office of Certification and Induction, P.O. Box 500, Trenton, NJ 08625-0500 within 30 days of the mailing date of this decision.

Rani Singh, Acting Secretary
State Board of Examiners

**Date of Mailing:
via certified and regular mail**

Appeals may be made to the Commissioner of Education pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A.* 18A:6-38.4.