

# **NOTICE LETTER**



# Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

*Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education*

June 28, 2021

**Johnny Key**  
Secretary

Ms. Shawna Scoggin

Mr. Keith Richey, Superintendent  
Marmaduke School District  
1010 Greyhound Drive  
Marmaduke, AR, 72443

**Dr. Ivy Pfeffer**  
Deputy  
Commissioner

Ms. Debbie Smith, Superintendent  
Paragould School District

**Stacy Smith**  
Deputy  
Commissioner

1501 W. Court Street  
Paragould, AR 72450

**State Board of  
Education**

**Re: Appeal Under the Public School Choice Act-Keagan, Kamron, and Kennedy Gamel**

Everyone:

**Charisse Dean**  
Little Rock  
Chair

This letter is to notify you that the Arkansas State Board of Education is scheduled to hear the above-referenced appeal(s) on **Thursday, July 8, 2021**. The action item is set for the **10:00 a.m. agenda in the Auditorium of the Arch Ford Education Building, Four Capitol Mall, Little Rock, Arkansas.**

**Ouida Newton**  
Poyen  
Vice Chair

Any additional materials any party chooses to submit should be provided to my office **no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, July 2, 2021.**

**Susan Chambers**  
Bella Vista

**The Arkansas State Board of Education has requested the parent, the non-resident district, and the resident district attend this meeting and be available for questions.**

**Dr. Fitz Hill**  
Little Rock

The above-referenced appeal(s) will be conducted pursuant to the legal authority and jurisdiction vested in the State Board by the Public School Choice Act and the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Public School Choice Act. You may find copies of these references on the Arkansas Department of Education Website.

**Kathy McFetridge**  
Springdale

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact the Arkansas Department of Education's Legal Services Division at (501) 682-4585 should you require additional information.

**Dr. Sarah Moore**  
Stuttgart

**Steve Sutton**  
Marion

Sincerely,

/s/Taylor Dugan

**Adrienne Woods**  
Rogers

Taylor Dugan  
Staff Attorney

**Dr. Beth Anne Rankin**  
Magnolia

Division of Elementary and Secondary Education  
taylor.dugan@ade.arkansas.gov

**APPEAL**

## Taylor Dugan (ADE)

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**From:** Shawna Marie <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 22, 2021 10:04 PM  
**To:** Taylor Dugan (ADE)  
**Subject:** Appeal letter for Keagan and Kamron Gamel

Dear Board Of Education,

My name is Shawna Scoggin and I am writing in the hopes that the denial decision for my children to attend Marmaduke school via the school of choice program, will be overturned. When we moved to the area 10 years ago, my children were enrolled into your school district. This is where they made friends, joined the basketball team and educationally excelled. Marmaduke school is the only school they have ever known, it is where they feel at home. Last year we were informed that they would have to be enrolled in Paragould school district due to the fact that we had to relocate to Paragould due to severe mold in our home. 5 of the 10 years that we have lived in the state of Arkansas, we resided in Paragould and my children attended Marmaduke, even riding the bus from Paragould to Marmaduke and to the best of my knowledge I have never had to apply for school of choice. Since forcing my children into the Paragould school district their grades have dropped and their desire is gone. These are children and the system is failing them especially at Paragould school. My children have suffered depression from this and beg me to let them return to Marmaduke, so this is my plea to help put my kids back on the best path for them, with your school. I would also like to add that I am willing and able to provide all transportation for my children to and from your school. I fully believe there should be no child left behind and I feel that is exactly what's happened. I ask again to please reconsider this decision. Not just for my children's education, but for their future, which we feel would be that much better with the aid of your school system. I thank you for your time and for considering our request.

Respectfully,  
Shawna Scoggin

Attn: Taylor Dugan

May 21, 2021

Dear Board of Education,

My name is Shawna Scoggin and I am writing in the hopes that the denial decision for my children to attend Marmaduke School via the School of Choice Program, will be overturned.

When we moved to the area 10 years ago, my children were enrolled into your School District. This is where they made friends, joined the basketball team and educationally excelled.

Marmaduke School is the only School they have ever known, it is where they feel at home. Last year we were informed that they would have to be enrolled in Paragould School District due to the fact that we had to relocate to Paragould due to severe mold in our home. 5 of the 10 years that we have lived in the State of Arkansas, we resided in Paragould and my children attended Marmaduke,

Akthn. Taylor Dugan

May 21, 2021

even riding the bus from Paragould to marmaduke and to the best of my knowledge I have never had to apply for School of Choice.

Since forcing my children into the Paragould School district their grades have dropped and their desire is gone.

These are children and the System is failing them especially at Paragould School.

My children have suffered depression from this and beg me to let them return to marmaduke, so this is my plea to help put my kids back on the best path for them, with your School.

I would also like to add that I am willing and able to provide all transportation for my children to and from your School.

I fully believe there should be no child left behind and I feel that is exactly what's happened.

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Attn: Taylor Dugan

May 21, 2021

I ask again to please  
reconsider this decision. Not  
just for my childrens education,  
but for their future, which we  
feel would be that much better  
with the aid of your School  
System.

I thank you for your time  
and for considering our request.

Respectfully,  
Shawna Scoggin

# Marmaduke Public School

1010 Greyhound Drive  
Marmaduke, AR 72443



Keith Richey  
Superintendent  
870-597-2723

Bill Muse  
Asst. Superintendent  
870-597-2723

Shane Robinson  
High School Principal  
870-597-2723

Lisa Hargrave  
Elementary Principal  
870-597-2711

☺ May 14, 2021 ☺

Dear Shawna Scoggin:

I am sorry, but the applications you submitted for Keagan Gamel, Kennedy Gamel, and Kamron Gamel have been rejected for the following reason.

\_\_\_\_\_ Your child's resident district has declared itself exempt from the provisions of the School Choice Law due to it being under an enforceable desegregation order.

\_\_\_\_\_ Your child's resident district has reached its limitation cap for allowable transfers and we cannot accept any additional school choice transfers from that district.

Your child does not meet the openings identified for the coming school-year identified in its Board of Directors Resolution adopted on July 14, 2014.

The specific reason for rejection is that acceptance would cause the district to have to add:

Staff

Teachers

\_\_\_\_\_ Classroom(s)

The ALE program capacity.

As noted in your original application, you have ten (10) days from receipt of this notice in which to submit a written appeal of this decision to the State Board of Education.

Respectfully,

Keith Richey,  
Superintendent



# OTHER DOCUMENTS

# Marmaduke Public School

1010 Greyhound Drive  
Marmaduke, AR 72443



Keith Richey  
Superintendent  
870-597-2723

Bill Muse  
Asst. Superintendent  
870-597-2723

Shane Robinson  
High School Principal  
870-597-2723

Lisa Hargrave  
Elementary Principal  
870-597-2711

May 14, 2021

Mrs. Debbie Smith, Supt.  
Paragould School District  
1501 W Court Street  
Paragould, AR 72450


Dear Mrs. Smith:

At the Marmaduke School District Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the board **Denied** the enclosed list of "School Choice" students for the 21-22 school year.

Last Name	First Name	Date of Birth
Gamel	Keagan	8/9/2003 ✓
Gamel	Kamron	4/17/2006 ✓
Gamel	Kennedy	1/10/2005 ✓

If you need further information, please let us know.

Sincerely,

  
Keith Richey,  
Superintendent