

**SEMINOLE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS  
INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY**

**Employee:** Garrett, Kathleen  
**Position:** ESE Teacher  
**Date of Birth:** 02/01/56  
**SCPS Date of Hire:** 08/24/78  
**Investigator:** John F. Byerly  
**Date Rec'd:** 10/25/04

**Work Site:** S. Seminole Middle School  
**EID#:** 3058  
**Date of Final Report:** 11/18/04  
**Initial Complainant/Victim:**  
**Case #** 0405-MC007

**Allegation:**

On or about Friday, October 22, 2004, Mr. Alex Agosto, Assistant Principal of South Seminole Middle School met with Ms. Robin Dehlinger, Principal of the same school after being approached by two ESE classroom assistants who disclosed allegations of physical contact to students by Ms. Garrett whereby it was alleged they witnessed Ms. Garrett striking ESE children on their heads, buttocks and other acts of physical force which were not justifiable, excessive and perceived as abusing the children. Based on the disclosures, Ms. Dehlinger contacted law enforcement and/or Dept of Children and Families to report the allegations. Casselberry Police began a criminal investigation on Monday, October 25, 2004. Due to the nature of the allegations and/or disclosures, the Superintendent suspended Ms. Garrett with pay on October 25, 2004.

**Pertinent History:**

See attached summary from April 2000.

**Application of Statute/Policy/Rule:**

- 1) State Board of Education Rule 6B-1.006, FAC, The Principals of Professional Conduct of the Education Profession of Florida; Subsection (3)(a), (3)(c)
- 2) Seminole County Public School Board Policy, Section J, Student Conduct File: JFC; Page 5; Reasonable Force.

**Summary of Investigation:**

**Interview with Sabrina Mort; Asst Pmd/Tmd/Ed/Pi/Pk; South Seminole Middle School**

On November 4, 2004, beginning at approx. 1025 hrs., John Byerly met with Ms. Mort at South Seminole Middle School to discuss the allegations contained herein. Following is a synopsis of information provided by Ms. Mort.

Ms. Mort has been employed in the District since approx. 1998. She has been assigned to Ms. Garrett's room since the 2002-2003 school year as an ESE assistant at South Seminole Middle School. Recently, the interactions between Ms. Garrett and certain students involving physical force and/or contact has become of great concern to her to the point that she and a fellow classroom assistant (Ms. Rodriguez) felt compelled to report out of concern for the safety of the students within the classroom.

The first time Ms. Mort observed something of concern to her was during the 2001-2002 school year. One day while in the cafeteria at lunch time, Ms. Mort was seated at a cafeteria table with some students. Her table was next to a table with other students where Ms. Garrett confronted a male ESE student who was not eating. Twice she recalled Ms. Garrett telling the student to eat his food. The student still was not eating