

# THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

IN RE THE MATTER OF:

KAREN JAMES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

PLSB CASE NO. 19-115

## FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER

At its regular meeting on September 10, 2020, the Arkansas State Board of Education (Board) accepted the recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for disciplinary action against the teaching license of Karen James (Educator James). Based upon Educator James's consent to surrender teaching license and the evidence presented, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, Ark. Code Ann. 25-15-101 et seq., the Board hereby states as follows:

### I. Findings of Fact

- a. The Arkansas Department of Education issued Educator James a five year teaching license on January 1, 2014, which expired on December 31, 2018.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator James violated the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators promulgated pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § § 6-17-422 and 6-17-428.
- c. On March 1, 2019, the Ethics Subcommittee, authorized an investigation that Educator James violated Standard 2: an educator maintains competence regarding his or her professional practice, inclusive of skills, knowledge, dispositions, and responsibilities relating to his or her organizational position by allowing inappropriate interactions with students; Standard 3: an educator honestly fulfills reporting obligations associated with professional practices; Standard 4: an educator entrusted


with public funds and property, including school sponsored activity funds, honors that trust with honest responsible stewardship.

- d. In lieu of investigation, Educator James executed a consent to surrender teaching license for approval by the State Board of Education thereby waiving her right to any further notice, hearing, or any other rights she may have under the Administrative Procedure Act, including those rights set forth in Ark. Code Ann. §§ 25-15-211 and 25-15-212.
- e. At today's meeting, the consent to surrender and supporting documentation were presented to the Board as part of its consent agenda.

## **II. Conclusions of Law**

- a. Upon consideration of the evidence presented at the meeting, Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-11-105, 6-17-401, 6-17-422, 6-17-428 and 25-15-201 et seq., and the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators, the Board adopts the consent to surrender as a permanent revocation, and enacts the sanctions accordingly.
- b. This order shall remain permanently in Educator James's professional licensure file and the confidential files of the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

  
Charisse Dean, Chair  
Arkansas State Board of Education