THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

IN RE THE MATTER OF: GEORGE NICK EUBANKS SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

PLSB CASE NO. 20-131

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 Ethics Subcommittee (Ethics Subcommittee) for disciplinary action against the teaching license of George Nick Eubanks (Educator Eubanks). Based upon Educator Eubanks's failure to respond to the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation 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 Eubanks a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2019, valid until December 31, 2023.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Eubanks 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 April 3, 2020, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Eubanks violated Standards 1 and 2; Standard 1: an educator maintains a professional relationship with each student, both in and outside the classroom; Standard 2: an educator maintains competence regarding his or her professional practice, inclusive of professional and ethical behavior, skills,

Page 1 of 3 George Nick Eubanks - PLSB Case No. 20-131

- knowledge, dispositions, and responsibilities relating to his or her organizational position.
- d. Educator Eubanks was notified on April 6, 2020, of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization to investigate this allegation.
- e. After considering the investigator's report and evidence on July 8, 2020, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found that a preponderance of evidence existed to substantiate violation of Standards 1 and 2 in that Educator Eubanks:
 - Physical contact with a student
 - Inappropriate disposition inclusive of professional and ethical behavior
 - Failed to follow district policies
- f. The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the State Board take the following actions:
 - Permanent Revocation of License or Non-Renewal by State Board of Education;
 - 2. Assess a \$500 fine (due within 90 days of the State Board Order);
 - 3. Require Educator to pay all associated costs.
- g. On July 10, 2020, Educator Eubanks, was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's initial determination and recommendation by regular mail and secure server. Educator Eubanks failed to respond to the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation thereby waiving his right to any further notice, hearing, or any other rights he may have under the Administrative Procedure Act, including those rights set forth in Ark. Code Ann. §§ 25-15-211 and 25-15-212.
- h. At today's meeting, the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation 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 Ethics Subcommittee's recommendations, and enacts the sanctions accordingly. The Board admonishes Educator Eubanks for his violation of the Code of Ethics.
- b. Educator Eubanks is cautioned that further violations of the Code of Ethics or failure to pay the fine within ninety (90) days from the date of this order may result in more severe discipline.
- c. This order shall remain permanently in Educator Eubanks 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