

**THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:  
DONNA TURNER  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2020**

**PLSB CASE NO. 20-134**

**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 Donna Turner (Educator Turner). Based upon Educator Turner's acceptance of 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 Turner a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2019, valid until December 31, 2023.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Turner 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 Turner 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, knowledge, dispositions, and responsibilities relating to his or her organizational position.*

- d. Educator Turner 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 Turner:
  - Inappropriate interactions with students
  - Physical contact with a student
  - Inappropriate disposition inclusive of professional and ethical behavior
  - Failed to follow district/state policies
- f. The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the State Board take the following actions:
  - a. One Year Probation;
  - b. Assess a \$200 fine (due within 90 days of the State Board Order);
  - c. Require Educator to complete the following coursework/readings:
    1. ERC19048: Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB):  
The Code of Ethics Training Video (2018) Credit Hours: 1
    2. Children's Challenging Behaviors 10 Hours (Online) Price - \$46.00 Link–  
<https://www.carecourses.com/Ecommerce/CourseDetail.aspx?ItemID=326>
    3. Title: I Notice: A Step-by-Step Guide to Transform Student Potential Through Building Intentional Relationships Author:

Claire E. Hallinan ISBN-10: 1733035613 ISBN-13: 978-1733035613

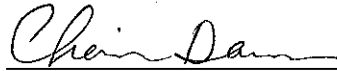
4. Educator to provide written reflections on how the trainings will impact her interactions with difficult or challenging students and how she can do so in a positive manner. (due within 90 days of the State Board Order); and
  5. Require Educator to pay all associated costs.
- g. On July 10, 2020, Educator Turner, was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's initial determination and recommendation by certified and regular mail. Educator Turner accepted the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation 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.
- 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 Turner for her violation of the Code of Ethics.
- b. Educator Turner is cautioned that her non-payment of the assessed fine of \$200 may result in the suspension of her license until the fine is paid in full.

- c. Educator Turner 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 including permanent revocation of her license.
- d. This order shall remain permanently in Educator Turner professional licensure file and the confidential files of the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



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Charisse Dean, Chair  
Arkansas State Board of Education