

THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:
SHAGALA BARNETT
AUGUST 13, 2020**

PLSB CASE NO. 20-062

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER

At its regular meeting on August 13, 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 Shagala Barnett (Educator Barnett). Based upon Educator Barnett's response to the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation and the evidence presented, in accordance with the Administrative Procedures 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 Barnett an ACT 1240 waiver.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Barnett 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 November 4, 2019, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Barnett violated Standard 1: an educator maintains a professional relationship with each student, both in and outside the classroom and 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 Barnett was notified on November 5, 2019, of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization to investigate this allegation.
- e. After considering the investigator's report and evidence on June 9, 2020 the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found that a preponderance of evidence existed to substantiate violation of Standard 1 and 2 in that Educator Barnett:
- Engaged in physical contact with student.
 - Exhibited an inappropriate disposition inclusive of professional and ethical behavior.
- f. The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the State Board take the following actions:
1. Level 2 Public Notification of Ethics Violation, Two Year probation;
 2. Assess a \$250 fine (due within 90 days of State Board Order);
- g. On June 9, 2020, Educator Barnett, was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's initial determination and recommendation by regular mail and secure server. Educator Barnett responded to the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation as accepted on July 7, 2020.
- h. At today's meeting, the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation and supporting documentation were presented to the Board as part of its consent agenda.

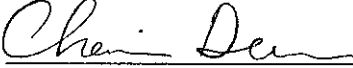
II. Conclusions of Law

- 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 Shagala Barnett for her violation of the Code of Ethics.

- b. This order shall remain permanently in Educator Barnett'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