

THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:
CARRIE SMITH
AUGUST 13, 2020**

PLSB CASE NO. 20-110

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 Carrie Smith (Educator Smith). Based upon Educator Smith's failure to respond 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 Smith a standard five year teaching license on January 1, 2019 that expires on December 31, 2023.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Smith 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 6, 2020 the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Smith 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 Smith was notified on March 9, 2020, 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 Smith:
 - Physical contact with a student resulting in injury.
 - Inappropriate interaction with a student.
 - Inappropriate disposition inclusive of professional and ethical behavior.
- f. The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the State Board take the following actions:
 1. One Year probation;
 2. Assess a \$200 fine (due within 90 days of State Board Order);
 3. Recommended training:
 - (i) ERC19048: Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB): The Code of Ethics Training Video (2018) Credit Hours: 1
 - (ii) Title: Positive Discipline: The Classic Guide to Helping Children Develop Self-Discipline, Responsibility, Cooperation, and Problem-Solving Skills (384p) Author: Jane Nelsen Ed. D. ISBN 10: 0345487672 ISBN 13: 978-0345487674
 - (iii) Title: Real Talk About Classroom Management: 50 Best Practices That Work and Show You Believe in Your Students (296p)

Author: Serena Pariser ISBN-13: 978-1544317755 ISBN-10:
1544317751

(iv) Title: QBQ! The Question Behind the Question: Practicing
Personal Accountability at Work and in Life (160p) Author: John
G. Miller ISBN 10: 0399152334 ISBN 13: 978-0399152337

4. Written reflections provided by educator to show how the trainings will impact her interactions with her students and classroom management.
- g. On June 9, 2020, Educator Smith, was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's initial determination and recommendation by regular mail and secure server. Educator Smith did not respond to the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation therefore deems it as accepted.
- 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 Carrie Smith for her violation of the Code of Ethics.
- b. This order shall remain permanently in Educator Smith's professional licensure file and the confidential files of the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charisse Dean", written over a horizontal line.

Charisse Dean , Chair
Arkansas State Board of Education