

THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:
TARA FULLER
MAY 14, 2020**

PLSB CASE NO. 20-043

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER

At its regular meeting on May 14, 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 Tara Fuller (Educator Fuller). Based upon Educator Fuller'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. Educator Fuller was an educator under an ACT 1240 waiver issued by the Arkansas Department of Education.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Fuller 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 October 4, 2019, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Fuller violated 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 and Standard 3: an educator honestly fulfills reporting obligations associated with professional practices.

- d. Educator Fuller was notified on October 7, 2019, of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization to investigate this allegation.
- e. After considering the investigator's report and evidence on March 6, 2020, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found that a preponderance of evidence existed to substantiate violations of Standards 2 and 3 in that Educator Fuller:
 - Exhibited an inappropriate disposition inclusive of professional and ethical behavior.
 - Falsified and/or created false documents.

The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the State Board take the following actions:

- a) Written Reprimand by State Board of Education;
- b) Fine of \$100 fine (due within 90 days of State Board order).
- c) Recommend training, coursework or rehab treatment, with monitored progress:
 - (i) ERC19048: Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB): The Code of Ethics Training Video (2018); Credit Hours: 1
 - (ii) Written reflection indicating how these trainings will impact her professional disposition and practices in the future.
- d) To be completed by: Within 90 days of the State Board of Education final order. (All costs paid by Educator).
- e) On March 6, 2020, Educator Fuller was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's initial determination and recommendation by first class and certified mail. Educator Fuller did not respond to the recommendation of the Ethics Subcommittee letter sent via first class and certified mail.
- f) Per Rule 12.03 of the Code of Ethics Governing Arkansas Educators, if an Educator fails to respond to notification of the initial determination and recommendation of the Ethics Subcommittee within thirty calendar days, the initial recommendation will become a final

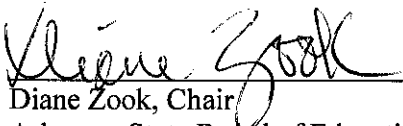
recommendation without an evidentiary hearing and will be forwarded to the State Board for a final decision.

- g) 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 Fuller for her violation of the Code of Ethics.
- b. Educator Fuller is cautioned that further violations of the Code of Ethics or failure to pay the fine may result in more severe discipline including permanent revocation or non-issuance of a license.
- c. This order shall remain permanently in Educator Fuller professional licensure file and the confidential files of the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Diane Zook, Chair
Arkansas State Board of Education