

THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:
RANDALL BARNHILL
MAY 14, 2020**

PLSB CASE NO. 20-065

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 Randall Barnhill (Educator Barnhill). Based upon Educator Barnhill'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 Barnhill a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2016, valid until December 31, 2020.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Barnhill 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 Barnhill 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.

Educator Barnhill was notified on November 5, 2019, of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization to investigate this allegation.

- d. 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 in that Educator Barnhill:
 - Exhibited inappropriate disposition inclusive of professional and ethical behavior.

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


- a) Written Reprimand by State Board of Education
- b) Fine of \$100 (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) AAA Sportsmanship Handbook, specifically Article II: Administration of Interscholastic Events, Section I Superintendent and/or Principal Responsibility, Rule 2: Sportsmanship
 - (iii) Written reflection on how these trainings will influence his impact on student athletes as a role model in his capacity an administrative capacity.
 - (iv) To be completed by: Within 90 days of the State Board of Education final order. (All costs paid by Educator).
- d) On March 9, 2020, Educator Barnhill was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's initial determination and recommendation by first class and certified mail. Educator Barnhill accepted the recommendation of the Ethics Subcommittee on April 6, 2020 and it was received by the PLSB on April 10, 2020.

- e) 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 Barnhill for his violation of the Code of Ethics.
- b. Educator Barnhill is cautioned that his non-payment of the assessed fine of \$100 may result in the suspension of his license until the fine is paid in full.
- c. Educator Barnhill 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 of his license.
- d. This order shall remain permanently in Educator Barnhill 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