

**THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:**

**BLAKE DAVIS**

**MAY 14, 2020**

**PLSB CASE NO. 20-114**

**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 Blake Davis (Educator Davis). Based upon Educator Davis'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 Davis a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2020, valid until December 31, 2024.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Davis 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 Davis 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 Davis 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 May 1, 2020, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found that a preponderance of evidence existed to substantiate violations of Standards 1 and 2 in that Educator Davis:
- Exhibited inappropriate interactions with a student.
  - Exhibited inappropriate communications with a student in person or via electronic communications.
  - Exhibited inappropriate disposition inclusive of professional and ethical behavior.
  - Failed to follow district/state or federal policies.
- f. The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the State Board take the following actions:
1. Permanent Revocation of license;
  2. Assess a \$500 fine (due within 90 days of State Board order);
  3. All costs to be paid by the Educator.
- g. On May 1, 2020, Educator Davis was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's initial determination and recommendation by secure server. Educator Davis accepted the recommendation of the Ethics Subcommittee letter on May 4, 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 Davis for his violation of the Code of Ethics.

- b. Educator Davis is cautioned that further violations of the Code of Ethics or failure to pay the fine may result in more severe disciplinary actions.
- c. This order shall remain permanently in Educator Davis 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