

**THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:**

**LUCAS HORN**

**APRIL 9, 2020**

**PLSB CASE NO. 19-060**

**FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER**

At its regular meeting on April 9, 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 Lucas Horn (Educator Horn). Based upon Educator Horn'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 Horn a standard five-year teaching license on August 5, 2015, valid until December 31, 2019.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Horn 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 2, 2018, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Horn 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 Horn was notified on November 2, 2018, of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization to investigate this allegation.
- e. After considering the investigator's report and evidence on January 17, 2020, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found that a preponderance of evidence existed to substantiate violations of Standards 1 and 2 in that Educator Horn:
- Engaged in inappropriate use of social media.
  - Engaged in inappropriate electronic communications.
  - Exhibited an inappropriate disposition inclusive of professional and ethical behavior.
- 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);
- g. On January 22, 2020, Educator Horn was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's initial determination and recommendation by certified and regular mail. Educator Horn's certified mail was returned and resent to a corrected address on February 3, 2020. Educator Horn did not respond to the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation sent via first class and certified mail.
- h. Per Rule 12.03 of Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators, if an educator fails to respond to notification of the initial 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.
- i. 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 Lucas Horn for his violation of the Code of Ethics.
- b. Educator Horn is cautioned that his non-payment of the assessed fine of \$500 may result in the suspension of his license until the fine is paid in full.
- c. This order shall remain permanently in Educator Horn's 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