

**THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:  
CHRISTINE A. STRACENER  
MARCH 12, 2020**

**PLSB CASE NO. 20-046**

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

At its regular meeting on March 12, 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 Christine A. Stracener (Educator Stracener). Based upon Educator Stracener'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 Stracener a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2019, valid until December 31, 2022.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Stracener 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 Stracener 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 Stracener was notified on October 4 2019, 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 2 and 3 in that Educator Stracener:
- Exhibited an inappropriate disposition inclusive of professional and ethical behavior.
  - Falsified and/or manipulated student records/data and/or created false documents.
- f. The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the State Board take the following actions:
1. Six months of probation;
  2. Assess a \$150 fine (due within 90 days of State Board Order);
  3. Recommended Trainings/Course Work
    - (i) ERC19048: Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB): The Code of Ethics Training Video (2018) Credit Hours: 1
    - (ii) SPC17008 Foundations in Special Education: Major Components of IDEA; Credit Hours: 1.
    - (iii) SPC17009 Foundations in Special Education: Legal and Ethical Issues; Credit Hours: 1.
  4. Written Reflection indicating how these trainings will impact the Educator's professional practices.
  5. All costs to be paid by the Educator.
- g. On January 17, 2020, Educator Stracener was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's initial determination and recommendation by certified and regular mail.

- h. On January 21, 2020, Educator Stracener signed the acceptance of the Ethics Subcommittee initial determination and recommendation.
- i. PLSB received the written acceptance on January 31, 2020.
- j. 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 Christine Stracener for her violation of the Code of Ethics.
- b. Educator Stracener is cautioned that her non-payment of the assessed fine of \$150 may result in the suspension of her license until the fine is paid in full.
- c. Educator Stracener is cautioned that further violations of the Code of Ethics or failure to pay the fine within ninety (90) days from the date of this order may result in more severe discipline including permanent revocation of her license.
- d. This order shall remain permanently in Educator Stracener'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