

THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:
KIRA GEER
FEBRUARY 13, 2020**

PLSB CASE NO. 19-009

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER

At its regular meeting on February 13, 2020, the Arkansas State Board of Education reviewed the findings of the Professional Licensure Standards Board Ethics Hearing Subcommittee (Hearing Subcommittee) for disciplinary action against Kira Geer (Educator Geer). Based upon the briefs of the parties and the evidence presented to the Board, in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, Ark. Code Ann. 25-15-101 et seq., the Board hereby states as follows:

I. Procedural History

- a. The Professional Licensure Standards Board Ethics Subcommittee (Ethics Subcommittee) received an allegation that Educator Geer 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.
- b. On July 9, 2018, Educator Geer received notice of the Ethics Subcommittee authorization into allegations that Educator Geer violated Standard 1 and Standard 2.
- c. After considering the investigator's report and evidence on March 1, 2019, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found that reasonable belief existed to substantiate a violation of Standard 1 and Standard 2 and recommended that Ms. Geer a non-issuance of license and a fine of \$500.

- d. On April 3, 2019, Educator Geer rejected the recommendation and requested an evidentiary hearing scheduled for October 23, 2019.
- e. On August 20, 2019, Educator Geer, through her attorney, filed a Motion to Dismiss with the Ethics Subcommittee and the motion was denied at the September Ethics Subcommittee meeting.
- f. Educator Geer renewed her Motion to Dismiss and presented it to the Ethics Hearing Subcommittee on October 23, 2019, and the Ethics Hearing Subcommittee denied the motion to dismiss and proceeded to an evidentiary hearing.
- g. After an evidentiary hearing, the Evidentiary Hearing Subcommittee found that Educator Geer violated standards 1 and 2 and recommended a five year non issuance of license and a \$500 fine.
- h. Educator Geer rejected the Hearing Subcommittee's findings and recommendations and requested that the State Board review the findings and recommendations.
- i. Educator Geer filed a motion to dismiss with the State Board and the motion was heard at the January 9, 2020, board meeting. A motion was made to grant the motion to dismiss and the motion failed. Therefore, the motion to dismiss was denied, and the case was continued to the February 13, 2020, for a full review.

II. Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law

- a. Educator Geer is a preservice teacher and subject to the Code of Ethics
- b. Educator Geer DID violate Standards 1 and 2 by:
 - Engaging in inappropriate conversations.
 - Talked about sex toys with students
 - Embarrassed a student about her penmanship and made her cry
 - Discussed drinking, cocaine, transgenders, homosexuals, domestic abuse, and referenced teachers engaging in relationships with students all of which had nothing to do with the curriculum or serve an educational purpose.

- c. The Board imposed the following sanction:
1. Non-issuance of license for three years;
 2. If a license is issued then 2 years of probation and Educator Geer must provide documentation from supervisor or mentor of no new violations.
 3. Assess a \$250 fine (due within 90 days of State Board Order);
 4. Recommended Trainings/Course Work;
 - (i) IAE14024 The Learning Classroom: Expectations for Success
 - (ii) Book Titled: Culturally Responsive Teaching: Theory, Research, and Practice (384p); Author: Geneva Gay; ISBN-10: 0807758760; ISBN-13: 978-0807758762
 5. All costs to be paid by the Educator.
- d. Educator Geer is cautioned that her non-payment of the assessed fine of \$250 may result in the suspension of her license if issued.
- e. Educator Geer 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 non-issuance
- f. This order shall remain permanently in Educator Geer'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