

# THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:  
ROBERT G. BELEW  
FEBRUARY 13, 2020**

**PLSB CASE NO. 20-001**

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

At its regular meeting on February 13, 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 Robert G. Belew (Educator Belew). Based upon Educator Belew's failure to respond to the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation and the evidence presented, in accordance with the Administrative Procedures 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 Belew a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2015, valid until December 31, 2019.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Belew 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 July 1, 2019, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Belew 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 Belew was notified on July 1, 2019, of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization to investigate this allegation.
- e. After considering the investigator's report and evidence on December 5, 2019, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found that a preponderance of evidence existed to substantiate violation of Standard 1 and 2 in that Educator Belew:
  - Had physical contact with a student. (Sexual)
  - 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;
  2. Assess a \$500 fine (due within 90 days of State Board Order);
- g. On December 9, 2019, Educator Belew, was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's initial determination and recommendation by certified and regular mail. Educator Belew failed to respond to the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation thereby waiving his right to any further notice, hearing, or any other rights he may have under the Administrative Procedure Act, including those rights set forth in Ark. Code Ann. §§ 25-15-211 and 25-15-212.
- h. At today's meeting, the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation and supporting documentation were presented to the Board as part of its consent agenda.

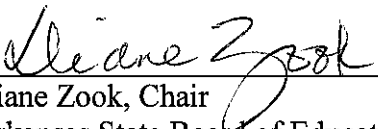
## **II. Conclusions of Law**

- 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 Robert G. Belew for his  
violation of the Code of Ethics.

- b. This order shall remain permanently in Educator Belew's professional licensure file  
and the confidential files of the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

  
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Diane Zook, Chair  
Arkansas State Board of Education