

THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:
JERRI LYN ODOM
OCTOBER 10, 2019**

PLSB CASE NO. 17-193

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER

At its regular meeting on October 10, 2019, the Arkansas State Board of Education (Board) reviewed the findings of the Professional Licensure Standards Board Ethics Hearing Subcommittee (Hearing Subcommittee) for disciplinary action against the teaching license of Jerri Lyn Odom (Educator Odom). Based upon the arguments 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. Educator Odom holds a standard Arkansas teaching license that expires December 31, 2019.
- b. The Professional Licensure Standards Board Ethics Subcommittee (Ethics Subcommittee) received an allegation that Educator Odom 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 May 5, 2017, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Odom violated Standard 2 and Standard 8.

- d. Educator Odom was notified on May 16, 2017, of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization to investigate this allegation.
- e. After considering the investigator's report and evidence on November 6, 2017, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found that reasonable belief existed to substantiate a violation of Standard 2 and Standard 8 in that Educator Odom, left three (3) student(s) unattended for approximately sixty-two (62) minutes and did not realize they were unaccounted for. Left one (1) student in the bathroom until another teacher discovered the student. Educator: tested positive for methamphetamine and amphetamine.
- f. The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the Board take the following actions:
 - Permanent Revocation of License.
- g. On December 1, 2017, Educator Odom rejected the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation and requested an evidentiary hearing.
- h. On April 17, 2019, Educator Odom, appeared for an evidentiary hearing before the Hearing Subcommittee.
- i. The Hearing Subcommittee upheld the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation and recommended that the Board take the following action:
 - Permanent revocation of license.
- j. On May 14, 2019, Educator Odom rejected the Hearing Subcommittee's recommendation and requested an appeal of the decision to the Board.
- k. Educator Odom, along with his attorney, Mr. Jim Hensley, appeared before the Board today to appeal the Hearing Subcommittee's recommendation.

1. At today's meeting, the Hearing Subcommittee's recommendation, parties' arguments, and supporting documentation were presented to the Board as part of its action agenda.

II. Findings of Fact and 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 made the following findings, conclusions and determinations by a preponderance of the evidence:

- Educator Odom is a licensed educator in the state of Arkansas;
- Educator Odom left students unattended for approximately (62) minutes.
- Educator did exhibit behaviors that required a drug test and tested positive on the drug test.
- Educator Odom DID violate Standard 2 and 8 of the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators.

- b. The Board imposes the following sanction:

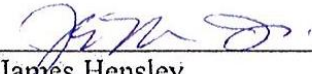
- Suspension of license for one (1) year;
- Review date of completion of conditions at the October 2020, State Board Meeting.
- Complete drug treatment on an inpatient basis for such duration as the program recommends with regular progress reports sent to the two attorneys listed below with random drug testing of at least every three months of the hair follicles for 10-Panel analysis the results of which will be sent to the two attorneys listed below.
- All associated costs to be paid by educator.

- c. Educator Odom is cautioned that failure to comply with the Boards conditions or further violations of the Code of Ethics may result in more severe discipline including permanent revocation of her license.
- d. This order shall remain permanently in Educator Odom'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

Approved as to form:


 James Hensley
 Attorney for the Educator

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