

THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:
SUZANNE ALICE WALLACE
OCTOBER 10, 2019**

PLSB CASE NO. 19-139

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER

At its regular meeting on October 10, 2019, 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 Suzanne Alice Wallace (Educator Wallace). Based upon Educator Wallace'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 Wallace a standard five-year teaching license on January 1, 2018, valid until December 31, 2022.
- b. The Ethics Subcommittee received an allegation that Educator Wallace 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 April 8, 2019, the Ethics Subcommittee authorized an investigation into allegations that Educator Wallace violated Standard 2: an educator maintains competence regarding his or her professional practice, inclusive of skills, knowledge, dispositions, and responsibilities relating to his or her organizational position: and Standard 7: an educator maintains the confidentiality of information about students

and colleagues obtained in the course of the educator's professional services that is protected state law or regulations, federal law or regulations, or the written policies of the educator's school district, unless disclosure serves a professional purpose as allowed or required by law or regulations.

- d. Educator Wallace was notified on April 8, 2019, of the Ethics Subcommittee's authorization to investigate this allegation.
- e. After considering the investigator's report and evidence on July 31, 2019, the Ethics Subcommittee unanimously found that a preponderance of evidence existed to substantiate violations of Standards 2 and 7 in that Educator Wallace:

- Exhibited an inappropriate disposition inclusive of professional and ethical behavior.
- Engaged in inappropriate communications with students and/or general public.
- Engaged in inappropriate use of social media.
- Failed to follow district policies.
- Shared confidential student information.

- f. The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the State Board take the following actions:

1. Probation of license for 1 year;
2. Assess a \$200 fine (due within 90 days of the State Board Order);
3. Require Educator to complete the following coursework/readings:
 - ERC19048: Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB): The Code of Ethics Training Video (2018): Credit Hours 1
 - TCC14435: Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB): Social Media Guidelines; Credit Hours: 3
 - SPC17012 Introduction to Behavior: General Classroom Management Systems; Credit Hours: 1
 - CMG17031 Increasing Student Effort and Engaging Students; Credit Hours: 1
 - Title: Real Talk About Classroom Management: 50 Best Practices That Work and Show You Believe in Your Students (296p); Author: Serena Pariser; ISBN-13: 978-544317755; ISBN-10: 1544317751

4. Require Educator to prepare written reflection: that explains how trainings will affect her future interactions with students (due within 90 days of the State Board Order); and
 5. Require Educator to pay all associated costs.
- g. On August 1, 2019, Educator Wallace, was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee's reasonable belief determination and recommendation by first class and certified mail. Educator Wallace accepted the Ethics Subcommittee's recommendation thereby waiving her right to any further notice, hearing, or any other rights she 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 Suzanne Alice Wallace for her violation of the Code of Ethics.
- b. Educator Wallace is cautioned that his non-payment of the assessed fine of \$200 may result in the suspension of his license until the fine is paid in full.
- c. Educator Wallace 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 Wallace'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